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ABSTRACT

This hearing before the Senate Subcommittee on Family and Human Services of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources celebrates strengths of American families by receiving testimony from seven families participating in one of three panel presentations. The first panel explores both the barriers to adoption and their transcendence by adoptive parents from two families. The second panel deals with how families with teenagers should address the need for sex education and the problems of teenage pregnancy; three families offer testimony. Witnesses participating in the third panel represent the Great American Family Program, a program honoring exemplary American families by giving awards. Award-winning families appearing before the subcommittee were selected on the basis of three criteria: (1) community service, (2) intra-family teamwork, and (3) nurturance of family members. Also included in the report are a Presidential document establishing November 20-26 as National Family Week, a Senate joint resolution designating that same week as National Adoption Week, correspondence concerning special-needs tax deductions, written statements of adopted children, and a statement made by the president of the American Family Society. (RH)

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FORUM FOR FAMILIES: QUALITY OF AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE

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HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

EXAMINATION OF FEDERAL POLICIES INTENDED TO PRESERVE AND INCREASE THE QUALITY OF AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE: A PRELUDE TO NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK AND NATIONAL ADOPTION WEEK

NOVEMBER 18, 1983

PS 014582

Printed for the use of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

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CONTENTS

Page

S.J. Res. 197 6

STATEMENTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1983

Kuharski children, prepared statement 32
Kuharski, John and Mary Ann family; and the Garland and Jan Dennett family 10
Supplemented statements of Jan and Garland Dennett 20
Schaus, Don and Marilyn family, Troy, Ala.; the Beverly Smith family, Frederick, Md., and Anita Godley family, Washington, D.C 34
Scott, Wayne K., president, the American Family Society, Washington, D.C.; the Larry McCord family, Deatsville, Ala.; and the Timothy Vann family, St. Paul, Minn 52

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

Articles, publications, et cetera:
Proclamation 5126 of November 4, 1983, by the President of the United States of America, from the Federal Register, Vol. 48, No. 218, Wednesday, November 9, 1983 5
Communications to:
Hatch, Hon. Orrin G., a U.S. Senator from the State of Utah, from Virgil Richmond, Acting District Director, Internal Revenue Service, Salt Lake City, Utah, November 3, 1983 23

FORUM FOR FAMILIES: QUALITY OF AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1983

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES,
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:07 a.m., in room SD-628, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Senator Jeremiah Denton, (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Senators Denton and Hatch.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR DENTON

Senator DENTON. Good morning, everyone. This hearing will come to order. We are privileged to have with us this morning our chairman of the full Committee on Labor and Human Resources, Senator Orrin Hatch from Utah, who has been such a support and such a leader in the whole area which this committee covers. It is my privilege to serve as chairman of this subcommittee which Senator Hatch has assigned to me.

I would like to welcome the witnesses and guests not just to a hearing, but to a celebration. Today at this hearing, we are celebrating the strengths of American families by receiving testimony from seven families. Many distinguished witnesses have come before this subcommittee during the past year, in which we have held four hearings dealing with the broken family, and these witnesses have shared their research, expertise, and advice on how best to support the strengthening of families in order to avoid the breakup or to alleviate the consequences of broken families.

I must say that they also shared many sadnesses in contrast to today. Today's witnesses—parents and children alike—should be introduced as those who have much to offer by way of practical experience on what keeps a family together, and in what makes us joyful also.

By providing a "Forum for Families" today, we are also taking part in a prelude to an important week next week. The President has issued a proclamation designating the week of November 20-26 as National Family Week. Many Governors, officials of local governments, as well as national and local private organizations, will be observing the week with ceremonies and activities. We here in the Senate are also joining in.

National Family Week also takes on special meaning for a special group of families, those who grow through adoption. In his

proclamation, President Reagan recognized this special group with these words: "In particular, those who have opened their homes through adoption and foster care deserve special thanks for offering the gift of family life to our nation's less fortunate children." We have with us today two families who know that adoption can make a positive difference in their lives. I welcome them and look forward to discussing with them ways that we can work together to encourage more families to adopt.

Senator Hatch, the distinguished chairman of the Committee, to whom I referred earlier, and I are both strong supporters of adoption. We introduced Senate Joint Resolution 197 earlier this week. This resolution acknowledges the efforts of private organizations, adoptive parents groups, and local and State governments over the past 8 years in publicizing information about the crucial needs of children waiting for adoptive homes.

The resolution which Chairman Hatch and I have introduced designates the week of November 20 to 26 as National Adoption Week.

The Federal Government has an important role to play in promoting the general welfare under the Constitution. Like others, I came to the Senate committed to that constitutional mandate. However, the Federal Government, though providing by mandate for the common defense, only promotes the general welfare and must not usurp families' responsibilities for providing for the general welfare. Neither, do I believe, should the Federal Government ignore the rights and responsibilities of families to provide food and shelter, impart religious and moral values, and care for the nurturing and education of their children.

I believe that the vast majority of American people are family centered. According to the Census Bureau, nearly three-fourths of the American households are family households today. However, we must acknowledge that in 1950, almost 90 percent of American households were family households.

Even today, the majority of marriages do not end in divorce, yet the number of divorces climbed to a record 1.21 million in 1981, capping off a sustained and rapid increase during the sixties and sevenuties.

But the majority of children are still being raised by two parents. However, we must acknowledge that single-parent families have risen from 9 percent in 1960 to 22 percent of all families with children in 1982. Nearly half of the married women with children under 6 years of age are working and are to leaving their children in the care of others.

It is difficult for me or anyone else to sit back after reciting these statistics and necessarily conclude that American families are doing fine. We cannot just accept the majority rule that I mentioned earlier, or ignore the clearly threatening forces to family strength and endurance which we see in our society today. It is my mere hope that we can see these negative forces which make our jobs as parents and family members more difficult in contrast to the positive forces and resources which permit these families to excel in love and therefore in child raising.

From the cumulative evidence from all of our hearings on families, perhaps we can draw some useful conclusions. We have ar-

ranged for three panel presentations this morning. The first panel exemplifies both the barriers to adoption and their transcendence, the overcoming of those barriers by the adoptive parents. I hope to learn more from these two very committed families who have had to overcome the barriers of governmental rules and policies which discouraged them from adopting. In the near future I would like this subcommittee to look further into the government-subsidized foster care system and how this system is intruding into the lives of children while at the same time preventing the formation of adoptive families.

The second panel deals with how families with teenagers should address themselves to the challenge and the need for sex education and the problems of teenage pregnancy. We are deeply concerned with the current course which this country is taking in introducing barriers between parents and children in this respect. This is occurring through continued Federal financial support and policies that permit clinics and counselors to give sex education counseling, health services, and prescription contraceptives to minor children without parental involvement, notification, or consent.

That battle is raging minute by minute. The newspapers are full of the recent developments in the Federal courts as well as in Utah. I would like to dispel a myth relative to that entire battlefield. It is a myth about American families with teenagers that has been perpetuated throughout the national debate on the parental notification rule. It is the so-called squeal rule, issued by the Department of Health and Human Services. These regulations would have required family planning clinics that receive Federal funds to notify parents when the clinics reach the point of providing prescription birth control drugs and devices to females under the age of 18 who are still dependent upon their families' resources and support. I know personally that this provision of prescription drugs and devices too often is preceded by counseling, which can hardly be considered neutral, much less moral. It is provocative in the sense of promoting sexual activity, as a general rule. So when the children receive the prescription drugs and devices, this has occurred after counseling from which their parents have been excluded. I think this is a questionable practice and one which the Department of Health and Human Services has tried to address.

But those who opposed those rules stated that it was an unpopular solution, that the majority of Americans oppose those rules. Yet the fact is that a Gallup poll finds that the American people favor the rule by a margin of 54 to 40 percent. This margin is much wider for those age groups of people who are parents of teenagers, and after all, it is those parents whose rights and interests are at issue.

I would welcome any comments that the parents and teenagers would care to make on this area of controversy.

I look forward to this opportunity to discuss with parents and teens how they have worked to present their views and values about family life and sexuality to each other. I am also pleased that two of the families have participated in projects funded by the Adolescent Family Life Law, which Senator Hatch's committee passed and which I offered to that committee, and is now a 2-year-old law.

The final panel will be a group of very special families, who are participating in the great American family awards program. These families were nominated by local community groups and selected by a distinguished panel of judges as representatives of millions of American families for their exemplary lives and service to others. Their testimony should provide inspiration and encouragement to others who seek to strengthen their own family relationships.

In closing, permit me to emphasize the American family as the primary foundation on which this country is built. We are forgetting that these days. We are forgetting that the family is the basic social unit, not only in our Nation, but also in any civilized society.

I was reminded in testimony from the Broken Family Hearing submitted by Rabbi Gilbert Rosenthal that "Thirty-eight of fifty chapters of the Book of Genesis are devoted to marriage, children, sibling rivalry, domestic quarrels, courtship, and death of parents." To me, that is a strong indication that our governmental laws must at least observe the emphasis provided by the Judeo-Christian ethic upon which our individual self-discipline and compassion are based, upon which the legal and ethical foundations of this Nation are based, a foundation which provides the source of our national well-being.

Ethical standards which are conveyed and reinforced by the family, the community, and religious institutions must be echoed, not muffled or reversed, by the effects of Government policy. We can offer our children no less.

I ask that a copy of President Reagan's Proclamation for National Family Week be submitted as part of the hearing record. I also ask that Senate Joint Resolution 197, designating National Adoption Week, be submitted for the record.

[The following was received for the record:]

Federal Register
Vol. 48, No. 218
Wednesday, November 9, 1983

Presidential Documents

Title 3—

The President

Proclamation 5126 of November 4, 1983

National Family Week, 1983

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The family and family life are central to our American heritage. Family bonds give us an anchor in the past, as well as hope for the future. It is within the family that tradition is created, individuals grow, and faith is nurtured. Through family living, we discover who we are, how to interact with our fellowman, and the values that make a free society possible.

Families perform the daily tasks that sustain and renew us, including raising children and caring for the elderly. Families not only provide better health but also serve the special needs of the handicapped. In particular, those who have opened their homes through adoption and foster care deserve special thanks for offering the gift of family life to our Nation's less fortunate children.

Today, amid new pressures and needs, America is relearning the importance of its families. For instance, success in the national fight against drug and alcohol abuse must begin with a strong and united family. We are newly aware that the family cannot be taken for granted, and that the support of a family can never truly be replicated.

In recognition of the importance of the family as an essential unit of our free and orderly society, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 45, has authorized and requested the President to designate the week beginning on November 20, 1983, as "National Family Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of November 20 through November 26, 1983, as National Family Week. I applaud the men and women who uphold our families in many ways, as parents, grandparents, as the daughters and sons of older Americans.

I invite the Governors of the several States, the chief officials of local governments and all our citizens to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities. During a week in which we will also observe Thanksgiving Day, I especially invite all Americans to give thanks for the family relationships with which we have been blessed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 4th day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

Ronald Reagan

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II

98TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. J. RES. 197

To designate the week beginning November 20, 1983, as "National Adoption Week".

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 10 (legislative day, NOVEMBER 7), 1983

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. DENTON, Mrs. HAWKINS, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. HUMPHREY, Mr. RIEGLE, Mr. PELL, and Mr. RANDOLPH) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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JOINT RESOLUTION

To designate the week beginning November 20, 1983, as "National Adoption Week".

Whereas the week of November 20 has been privately commemorated as National Adoption Week for the past eight years;

Whereas we in Congress recognize the essential value of belonging to a secure, loving, permanent family as every child's basic right;

Whereas approximately one hundred thousand children who have special needs—school age, in sibling groups, members of minorities, or children with physical, mental, and emotional handicaps—are now in foster care or institutions financed at public expense and are legally free for adoption;

Whereas the adoption by capable parents of these institutionalized or foster care children into permanent, adoptive homes would insure the opportunity for their continued happiness and long-range well-being;

Whereas public and private barriers inhibiting the placement of these special needs children must be reviewed and removed where possible to assure these children's adoption;

Whereas as the public and prospective parents must be informed of the availability of adoptable children;

Whereas a variety of media, agencies, adoptive parent, and advocacy groups, civic and church groups, businesses, and industries will feature publicity and information to heighten community awareness of the crucial needs of waiting children; and

Whereas the recognition of Thanksgiving week as National Adoption Week is in the best interest of adoptable children and the public in general: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the week of November 20 through November 26, 1983, hereby is designated "National Adoption Week", and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Senator DENTON. I now want to turn to my friend and admired leader, Senator Hatch, the distinguished chairman of the Labor and Human Resources Committee. Senator Hatch has been an advocate for families, and for the promotion of adoption throughout his much longer congressional career than mine. It has been a pleasure to serve with him on this committee. I have admired his courage, because some of these issues are not necessarily popular nor politically advantageous for Senators. But my friend has dealt with many family issues in the manner in which I am pleased to be associated with his efforts.

So I look forward to working together with him from this moment on, continuing to try to strengthen American families throughout the programs of this subcommittee.

Orrin, would you care to make a statement?

Senator HATCH. Thank you, Senator Denton.

I just want to personally compliment you and thank you for being a leader for families in this country and for holding the many important hearings that you have chaired. Ever since you have been here, this committee never had a subcommittee solely concerned with families and I think you have grabbed the ball and run with it, and I think you have done a terrific job. You are one of my heroes, not only because you are a good family man, but because you have stood up in so many ways, not only here but before you came to the U.S. Senate.

I am especially pleased to be in attendance today at this important hearing before the Subcommittee on Family and Human Services, and I am particularly pleased to welcome my dear friends, the Garland Dennett family: Garland, Jan, Hermaline, Shaun, Ryan, and Justin.

I can personally attest to the anxious moments, you kids, that your mother and father experienced waiting for you to come into their lives. Garland and Jan, your family represents, in my opinion, the values we are highlighting at this hearing today entitled, "Family Forum: A Tribute to National Family Week and National Adoption Week." I commend again Senator Denton for recognizing the eminence of the American family.

I am also pleased to welcome the Kuharski, Schaus, Smith, Godley, McCord, and Vann families to our committee today, as well. We welcome all of you and we are looking forward to taking your testimony and learning more from you.

In a recent Gallup poll surveying the hierarchy of values in our American society, the great majority of individuals placed "a good family life" at the very top of their lists. It seems that even with the current rhetoric eulogizing new-found domestic patterns, most Americans feel that they can realize the greatest happiness in the traditional home with parents and children.

Certainly, this finding gives a clear message to all of us here in Washington responsible for reflecting the opinions and choices of American citizens. Our decisions must harmonize with values promoting a good family life. And, if we are honestly and conscientiously doing our job, any law or decision that detracts is not justifiable.

It is appropriate for this hearing to highlight National Family Week and National Adoption Week commemorated during the

coming Thanksgiving holiday. Families are the foundation of our country, and we must ponder and reflect the central point: What strengthens the family strengthens society.

It is also appropriate as we give thanks for our families on that day that we remember those without permanent homes—those little children pleading for love and security in this great land, a land of prosperity and opportunity for all, for there resides an estimated 100,000 adoptable children in our country. They are children legally free for adoption, but who remain in foster and institutionalized care. The majority of these children are children with special needs. They are children with physical, emotional, and mental handicaps; they are children who have already reached school age; they are children of varied races, and they are children with brothers and sisters—but they are children. And as children, they have a basic right as well as a fundamental need for the security and love found only in a permanent, caring home. Psychologists and sociologists tell us that the most basic human need is love and that second to that is security.

All children require the security and love that you and I do, this same security and love that is necessary for every individual to develop into a healthy, happy, secure personality.

Hopefully, the time we spend here today, highlighting family issues and in particular, adoption, will increase national awareness of the plight of these children.

Again, Senator Denton, I am pleased to join with you today as we listen to the testimony of these individuals who are devoted to the preservation and increased quality of American family life.

With your permission, I would like to introduce this Utah family that means so much to me.

Senator DENTON. We were going to ask you to do so, sir, especially in view of your need to depart before the hearing is over.

Senator HATCH. Thank you so much. I am pleased to introduce to the Family and Human Services Subcommittee, Garland and Jan Dennett and their family: Shaun, Hermeline, Ryan, and Justin.

Garland and Jan Dennett bring to this hearing years of experience in working on issues supporting families. Garland, for the past several years, was director of constituent services for my Salt Lake City office and in Washington.

In that position and in his vast personal experiences, he is a leading expert on the different issues surrounding the adoption bureaucracy: The domestic adoption policies, overseas adoption policies, including countless Vietnamese children and South American orphans. He is a champion for the rights of children and families.

Both Garland and Jan have extensive community experience in Utah; both have served on the board of Alpine House, an outpatient mental health facility, and Garland and Jan have welcomed several children into their home providing them with real love and security. I want to thank them for being here today and sharing with us the obstacles as well as the joys of adoption in our family lives here in Utah. And I just could not think more highly of an American family or of individuals like these.

They are doing a great job, and they did a great job for me. Garland has accepted a position back here in Washington, outside of our office, and we wish you and Jan well in all that you do.

And we are certainly happy to have you other families here, as well. It means a lot to us.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator DENTON. Thank you, Senator Hatch.

Mr. or Mrs. Kuharski, would one of you like to introduce your family for us. Who is the spokesman?

STATEMENT OF THE JOHN AND MARY ANN KUHARSKI FAMILY; AND THE GARLAND AND JAN DENNETT FAMILY

Mr. KUHARSKI. Thank you, Chairman Denton.

My name is John Kuharski. This is my wife, Mary Ann. Our oldest is Christine; then Timothy and Charles are 13; Vincent is 12 and Tina is 12; then Tony, over here, is 11; and Theresa is 9; Mary Elizabeth is 5; Angela is 3, and our littlest is Kari, who is 1.

The CHAIRMAN. How do you remember them all? We only have six, and I am calling each of them the wrong names all the time.

Senator DENTON. My son, Jim, is at the back of the room, and last night at dinner, my wife called him by the wrong name. He said, "I am Jim. I am Number 3." He named the other one, and he said, "He is number so-and-so." And then I got one of them mixed up, and we laughed for about 5 minutes.

But it does happen, and you did very well, John.

Mr. KUHARSKI. Thank you, Senator.

We have one more on the way in March, hopefully.

Senator DENTON. All right. Thank you.

Mr. and Mrs Dennett, would you introduce your children?

Mrs. DENNETT. This is Ryan, who is 5; this is Hermeline, our foster daughter, who is an Indian, and she is 10; this is Shaun, who is 7; and our newest one, a year, Justin.

We hope—we do not have anything for sure—but we are hoping for another one.

Senator DENTON. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Kuharski, I understand you are going to make the statement for the family. Would you proceed to do so, please?

Mr. KUHARSKI. I have a short statement, Senator.

Senator DENTON. Surely.

Mr. KUHARSKI. When my wife and I first became involved in adoption about 12 years ago, I guess I was of the opinion I was rescuing a poor, homeless human being from a life of misery, shall we say, and without a hope for the future. I did not discover until later that my adopted children would bring a new dimension into my life.

Adoption for me has opened up my heart to a new aspect of love. I realize now that these kids brought into my home love, fostered through the caring for, the living with, the playing with, the learning with, the sacrificing for, and the praying with each other. We all grew in the respect and feeling we have for those without families throughout our world and also throughout our great country.

But because I am human, a look at the addition of each child that we have, either adopted or born to us, as a risk, a risk in terms of my ability to provide them with a good, loving home, a proper education, and a Christian example which they can use to mold their future.

Life is not always, shall we say, rosy in our house. But as I look back on all the doubts that I have had, and I feel my doubts are really, truly outnumbered by the love and blessings our children have brought to me.

Thank you, Senator.

Senator DENTON. Thank you.

Mary Ann?

Mrs. KUHARSKI. Thank you, Senator Denton.

I am honored for all of us today to be here today.

I have been privileged to see adoption from three angles, first, through my own adoption at the age of 9 months. I grew up believing that adoption was just another way for families to get together, that is, children who need families and families looking for children.

Thanks to the adoption decision made for me, my childhood memories are very cherished years. I had a wonderful family and was deeply loved.

Looking back, I am also grateful that someone cared enough for me to place my needs above their own by giving me the gift of life and giving me to a loving family.

The abortion issue has made me even more aware of how grateful I am for this gift. After all, abortion was not invented in 1973, but was only legalized.

I believe most of us adoptees eventually realize that we are all fortunate to be "abortion escapees," and that someone very loving and very unselfish chose to give us life and to place our needs and our lives above their own.

My second experience with adoption has also been a privilege. In my volunteer work as a counselor aiding women and families with problem pregnancies, I have served as a "labor room coach," counselor and friend to many women within the past 11 years. Some of these women have chosen to keep their babies, and I gave them my full support.

For those who chose to place their children for adoption, I supported them and actually cried right along with them as we left the hospital or foster home for the last time. Seeing adoption from this view impressed me even more with the very real fact that placing a child for adoption is one of the greatest acts of unselfish love that one can do for another.

My third experience with adoption began about 10 years ago, when John and I began our "adventure" of being adoptive parents. Much has happened since that first adoption. Some people might say it is like eating potato chips, and you cannot stop after one.

We are very grateful to be the parents now of 10 children, 5 of whom are adopted. Four of our adopted children came from foreign countries—the Philippines, Vietnam and recently, Calcutta, India. All of our children that were adopted were classified as "hard to place" because of their age, race, physical or mental condition.

Their skin coloring and ours reminds one of the beautiful Minnesota fall colors. We range from light to brown, to almond, to black, and are testimony to the beauty and artistry of our Heavenly Father. Our mailman calls us "The United Nations," and in a way we believe we really are because we are so united.

It is hard to express the gifts that these adoptions have brought to our family. It is as personal as the birth process, bringing a child into the world, and as intangible and strong as the bonds of love that unite all real families. We are a real family in every sense of the word.

We have discovered the inner secret of adoption of special needs children and that secret is that while we may have mistakenly thought that we were doing something good for a child, we found out that it was we who were receiving so much more than we were giving. We have had our headaches, our sleepless nights, our worries, our emotional adjustments, doctor bills that will not quit, children who are challenged when we make demands on them, and the demands that we feel when they challenge our love or our faith.

Labels that prevent children from being considered for adoption such as "hard to place," "slow learner," "retarded," "deaf," "possible post-polio," "cerebral palsy," "cleft palate," "developmentally or emotionally challenging," are just that—labels.

They fail to describe the thrill a parent feels when he sees this tight little rosebud open up and respond for the very first time. They never tell a parent's excitement upon seeing the exuberant eyes of a "hearing impaired" son—put on his hearing aids for the first time and hear the babble of his baby sister.

Many will never know the privilege of being handed a 5-pound, 2-month-old baby who was diagnosed as dying from malnutrition, dehydration and starvation diarrhea, and seeing that first family photo of a 7-pound baby boy, a chunky bundle of love.

One of our sons came from the Baby Lift initiated by President Ford in 1975. At 5½, he had already witnessed the demise of his whole family and he was without family and home when we heard about him. I guess I can say who could possibly repair such hurt. We knew we never could. But God could, and he did. The thrill of a child's first kiss, that first embrace, that first trusting response are worth more than all the gold and all the treasures of the world.

In our home State of Minnesota, I have worked with Human Life Alliance of Minnesota, a Statewide pro-life organization, whose efforts were successful in securing passage of a State law supporting and encouraging the adoption of special needs children. On a national level, I urge your support of the positions and legislative efforts of American Citizens Concerned for Life, the National Committee for Adoption, and the American Life Lobby. I applaud their efforts. These groups have made and continue to make strides in securing the Right to Life for unborn children, in continuing to promote adoption and continuing to promote the permanence of the adoptive family unit.

We are aware of the naysayers in society who do not believe in adoption and speak of "unwanted children"—what a disgraceful label for any civilized, caring society—and offer abortion as a solution.

Other prophets of doom predict disaster for all mixed or interracial adoptions because they say the child might not experience the cultural or racial awareness that could only be achieved by living with those of his own race or heritage. In the meantime, we have approximately 200,000 children in the United States who need permanent families. Most of these are minority children. We do not

pretend, to our children, to you, Senator, or to any others, that we could adequately supply all of their cultural or racial identities or information that come from the childrens' heritage. We can supply, however, a home, an education, the permanence and security of a forever family, and most of all, our abundant love. In our minds, no child will have an ounce of cultural pride if he has been denied the love and permanence of a home and family.

In addition, we are deeply concerned about those who would pervert the legitimate role of the adoptive family unit. Those who prey on women and encourage them to be "surrogate hosts," supplying others with a product for sale—a baby—we believe should be denied their goal to legalize such surrogate parenting and adoption rights.

We urge your rejection of any groups or individuals who seek to change or modify adoption laws to promote open adoption, open records, or adoption exchanges before a child reaches the age of maturity and can give free consent. We believe these radical proposals which could produce a lack of permanence in a child's life and coparenting by birth-parent and adoptive parents, should be flatly rejected because of the profound effect such laws would have on our children and the whole adoptive family unit.

Please help us strive to end the bureaucratic paperwork that keeps waiting children in foster homes while many adoptive families, frustrated with the system, look to other countries to adopt children with special needs.

Matching children to adoptive families with the same or similar culture, race and heritage is a goal we all support. But the reality is that we have hundreds of thousands of waiting minority children, and we believe it more disgraceful that a system would deny a child a permanent home and loving family because the match was culturally lacking in someone's estimation. Let us build bridges of love, not walls of separate but equal in our American society. We ask you to help us overcome some of those obstacles to adoption.

Finally, we urge your support of any and all legislation that will give positive aid and support to women and families experiencing a stressful pregnancy, whether they choose to place their children for adoption or not. The United States of America is the greatest country in the world. We can put people in space, care for the homeless and give hope to the helpless. We urge you to reject every effort and any proposed law that would label a child unwanted or so burdensome that he or she can be legally put to death by abortion before birth or denied medical care and protection after birth.

I cannot help but comment that today, while we are here talking about adoption—and are wanting to legally adopt children from the United States—there is a baby that is in the news today, Baby Jane Doe, and there have been 50 families waiting in line who would love to adopt this baby, and this baby is denied medical care that any newborn baby that was not handicapped would be automatically given. It is just so frustrating to American families—four out of our five children are from other countries—it is almost easier—more expensive, but it is almost easier—to get a child and break the redtape of another country than to adopt a child that we

very much want to accept into our homes from our own United States of America.

Our children are growing up in a society that has successfully labeled some to be unwanted and deserving of abortion. They read in our daily papers of the Baby Does who are born imperfect and legally allowed to starve to death. I really do worry about the impact the abortion laws and infanticide practices will have on the values of my children and all of the children of our society. Will they become callous to the abuse and neglect of others in need?

We urge your support of all good adoption programs and laws, but more than that, we seek your help in restoring our country to the principles we were founded on—that each and every human being deserves the inalienable right to life, and born or unborn, is protected under our U.S. Constitution.

Adoption—not abortion—is a life-affirming solution to another's needs.

Thank you, Senator.

Senator DENTON. Thank you, Mrs. Kuharski, and if you ever care to run for office, I would be happy to support you. I have never heard a more brilliant nor self-proved by deed statement. Your whole life is a statement—yours, your husband's, your family's.

I have to deal with security and terrorism. I have been on the Armed Services Committee. I have heard many speeches on the floor about what we have to do to solve this or that problem. But it seems to me that you and your husband and your children represent the solution, which is quite simple.

Some of us pray what we consider to be the Lord's Prayer, "Our Father," not "My Father," but "Our Father." We have in our Constitution, "All men are created equal." And we are working toward that goal in terms of our attitudes in this country and in the world, I hope. Sooner or later, it is going to occur to us that it may not be coincidental that the Polynesian people which, by definition, mean "many raced," are the most beautiful people in the world.

I hope that those good-willed people who are so-called pro choice can look at your family and consider again whether or not that the lives within their wombs might not be permitted the opportunity to enjoy the life and love which people like you would provide them were they simply to deliver them into the world and let them be adopted.

I am talking too much, but I cannot help but think about a man down in Mobile, Ala. who sells me my airline tickets. He looks more like a policeman than an airline agent—he has red hair, he is about 40, he is kind of tough-looking and does not say much. He always is really nice to me, but I did not know why. He always says, "You are doing great up there." And about the last reason I would have ascribed to his support of me was the one which it turned out to be.

He imparted his reasons to me one day, when he said, "Say, Senator, do you know why I like what you are doing so much?"

I said, "No."

He said, "I have an adopted daughter." And he said, "I hate to think what would have happened if she had been aborted, because we love each other so much."

Now, how about the Dennetts, who is going to be the spokesman?

Mr. DENNETT. My wife, Jan, has a brief statement, Senator, and then I will, as well, read a brief comment.

Mrs. DENNETT. Senator Denton and members of the committee, I am grateful and honored at the opportunity to appear before you this morning, especially for the chance to express to you my feelings about families and about adoption as one way of making families.

My gratitude includes the knowledge that this subcommittee under your leadership, as well as the full Labor and Human Resources Committee, has done more to restore the issue of families to the top of our national agenda than most of us would ever have believed possible.

Senator, my personal view about families coincides with yours. There is no issue of greater national importance. Families have been the greatest source of our national strength, and the dissolution of families is one of the country's greatest threats.

And to that, I would add, the same is true of a family bound together by something other than biological ties, a family like mine.

I know there are those, even today, who believe that a family formed outside the mother's womb is unnatural and not permanent. There was a time when I thought that myself, but it is not true. It was not true in the time before Garland and I adopted Shaun, and it has not been true in the years since.

You see, we feel that our family is unique, special. Garland and I made our decision about having babies in a discussion over the dining room table, not in the bedroom. And we came to know that our choice would involve not only a special expression of love from ourselves, but it would include as well a special act by the "bio" mothers of our kids. We came to know afterwards that two of those mothers, the mothers who gave our children life, were considering alternative choices, more convenient choices, but because of the kind intervention of family doctors, those young women came to believe that a part of them could live happily, and with the same unlimited potential given to other children. And so, through their act of love, they allowed a great deal of love to enter into our home.

I cry sometimes when I think that these three beautiful boys might not have had a chance, that Garland and I might not have had the chance, to grow and to cry, and to play and to laugh together.

I want expectant mothers who are making similar choices to know that they can love their children-to-be in the same way. I would hope that this committee would consider efforts which would send this message into family planning centers and to abortion counseling facilities all around this country.

It is also important to me to tell you that there are thousands of couples around America who are desperately trying to begin families and failing. The data on the phenomenal growth of infertility in America is overwhelming, and these couples are often willing to give a great deal—in money, in humiliation, in loss of privacy, in time.

I teach a class every Tuesday night for couples seeking adoption as a way to permit them to express their love to a child. If you can, tell that story as well.

I have had a chance in my life to be a part of several families—the family I grew up in, my association with Garland's parents and his brothers, and this young family that you see before you now.

I have one other family I want to tell you about. For 3 years, Garland and I were houseparents at a residential halfway house for young people with emotional problems. For 3 years, we lived with 18 kids of both sexes who were struggling to return to society from State mental hospitals or county mental health facilities. And in 3 years, we saw, came to love and came to cry for 100 or so young folks whose lives were in utter shambles, in large part because they believed that there was no one who cared for them. Some had come from a dozen years of foster homes; some had been abused by natural or adoptive parents; some had been raised in natural home environments by parents unskilled at expressing the love which we could see when they came to us to visit their kids.

Through it all, Garland and I tried to give them the feeling of family that we both had when we were growing up. And sometimes, once in a while, it made a difference.

Children do grow better in families—and so do adults.

Thank you for the chance of being here today.

Senator DENTON. Thank you very much, Mrs. Dennett.

Mr. Dennett, please go ahead.

Mr. DENNETT. Senator Denton, I share my wife's views, especially in regard to the work of this committee and the leadership which I believe that you and Senator Hatch have displayed on these issues. As Jan has said, we consider ourselves very fortunate not only to be a part of this family, but in the contemplation of growing in the future.

But even as we have been blessed, others have not, other families and other children, and that is the issue that I would like to talk about briefly this morning.

Around this Nation, there are hundreds of thousands of children in foster care or in some sort of institutional setting beyond the custody of their natural parents. The most reliable figure which I have seen places that number at approximately 500,000, and published data suggests that one-fourth to one-third of those children are or will be legally available at some time for adoption.

I want you to consider for a moment the impact which foster care or institutionalization can have on a child. Jan and I feel very fortunate to have Hermeline in our home. She is a delightful young lady. But in January, we will be moving to Washington, and she will be moved to another family.

If she is typical, during the next 5 years that she is in foster care, she will live in a large number of families. Imagine the impact on a child of such upheaval. A kid would start to wonder, "Don't these families love me? Did I do something wrong? Will my next family send me away, too?"

If she is lucky, constant change is the worst that will happen to her. Most kids in foster care are not so lucky.

The social workers I have interviewed and the public agencies who have revealed their data to me, evidence that the rate of sexual abuse, physical violence, emotional deprivation, and abandonment is significantly higher in foster care than in the population at large.

Even as the press reports on the growing epidemic of child abuse, there are experts who believe that it is three times as prevalent in foster care situations.

These statements do not contradict the fact that many, perhaps even a majority, of foster parents do the best that we can. And I know that many foster kids come into the home setting with behavioral or emotional problems straight out of graduate psychology texts.

Nevertheless, I ask you, Senator, why can't we do better? Even if foster care were ideal, it would not be the best way. Why don't we do it the best way? I have explored those questions as part of my former employment, and for personal reasons, and I believe there are three basic causes.

First, the question of custody is not easy to adjudge or to adjudicate. The laws vary from State-to-State and are interpreted differently from court-to-court. Above all, the primary effort of the State should be to reunite natural families. So it is often difficult to make a decision to seek the legal custody of a child for the purpose of permanent alternative placement. A social worker has to weigh those factors along with the knowledge that foster care is not necessarily a better solution.

The result is that decisions on custody are often delayed, and in some cases, decisions may never be made. The child remains in a limbo status, not belonging to anyone, including himself.

The second cause for the large population of foster children in America is motivation and information. Some families do not know that they can adopt. Others feel that there are financial or parenting skill limitations that keep them away from the system. Some simply lack the motivation to more closely examine their own feelings and what they can do about them.

For that reason, the efforts of this committee are so important, but more needs to be done. I continue to hear some children categorized as hard to place. In my view, the term is relative.

For example, in Florida this past week, the story of an 18-month-old child who is dying from AIDS reached the attention of the national media. For several months, the Florida State Department of Social Services had tried, unsuccessfully, to place this baby in a temporary foster situation, Now, if ever there were a leper in modern times, an untouchable, it would be this tiny little girl. She is of a minority race, she is severely retarded in her physical development, she will never be healthy, she will never crawl or play or sing. And the doctors say that she cannot live more than 3 years. And, above all that, she carries in her saliva and in her feces the potential of infecting those who love her the most, with one of the most frightening diseases of our modern times.

Is this child hard to place?

We all know the answer. More than 200 families from all over the world have called Florida and have offered their homes as a forever place for this little girl that her nurses call "Pumpkin."

Does it take a well-written newspaper piece to motivate people?

Not always. For example, in New York State a few years ago, a woman adopted a Down's Syndrome child. She discovered that it was the most beautiful experience of her life. She was so overwhelmed by her own personal gain that she started to tell others

about it. She organized a little group. It was a support and a training group for those who were at least willing to talk about adopting a Down's baby. Today, in her area, as a result of her efforts, it is nearly as hard to find a Down's child who is available for adoption as it is to find a healthy white infant anywhere else.

There are other stories. But the fact is that all of us—the Feds, the States and the families who have tried it—have generally not done a good enough job of telling our story.

Now, the final reason that we have not placed the available kids, in my view, is that there are barriers for adoption, to adoption, even for those kids who are legally available and for those parents who are motivated to try. The barriers I am going to talk about are killing ones. They kill the hope of the waiting child, and they kill the desire of seeking families. And I am sorry to say, Senator, that those barriers fall into racial categories.

To begin with, there are barriers to minority people who wish to adopt. In our Nation by and large, there exists a white system of evaluation and expectation for adoptive parents. There are formal or informal rules that say that a family must be middle incomed, and one parent working and the other at home, and have a nice brick home and a separate bedroom for this new child. Even though these middle American standards are gradually changing in adoption agencies, even though the texts recognize that there are other kinds of families who can and should adopt, too many of those prejudices still remain.

As long as they do remain, minority Americans will have a harder time breaking into the system. The available data attests to the fact of this issue. In the 1960's, the number of kids of minority racial background in foster care was about 30 percent of the total foster population. The American Public Welfare Association study of last year says that percentage has climbed to nearly 50 percent.

The number of kids in foster care seems to be growing, and the percentage of them who are black, or Hispanic, or Asian is growing even faster.

The second class of barriers is one that I know more about.

There is a view now held, or at least enforced, by nearly all public placement agencies that children of one race should not be placed with parents of another race, even when it means that the child is not placed at all.

Transracial adoption has quietly been outlawed in the United States of America. A black family cannot adopt a white child. A white family cannot adopt a black child.

Jan and I have tried for 3 years. And I can lay upon your desk with a minimum of effort, affidavits from hundreds of families who have tried and failed to get State social services agencies to accept their applications for the adoption of a child of another race.

Two years ago, Jan and I applied to the State of Indiana for two biracial sisters. They accepted our application and then told us that they had another family in mind. A year later, the two girls reappeared in the national exchange books. We called to reapply. This time we were told, "Don't bother. We will not place these kids in a caucasian home."

Today, 2 years later, these two little girls are still unadopted, are getting older and harder to place, and are being raised by white foster parents.

The State of Colorado would not accept our application this September for two sisters of mixed racial background—one sister, the older, is white; the younger sister, of a different father, is biracial. They must be placed together. Colorado will not talk to the Dennett family or to the Hatch family or to the Denton family or to Ted Kennedy or to any other family which does not meet their racial criteria.

There are tens of thousands of kids in this country ready for adoption. There are hundreds of families trying to adopt. The kids just keep getting older, and the families get angrier.

One of the results of these barriers is that the number of private adoption placements in this country is growing, including many outside of the law. It does not take the parent who is giving up custody too long to perceive the risks of working with a public agency. And potential parents are learning that the money spent on private placement is cheaper than the pain and frustration in a public one.

Now, there are three issues that I have presented, and they are not entirely Federal problems, but there are some Federal answers. I have presented some of those answers in a supplement to my written testimony, which I will not read to you.

My request to you, Senator Denton, and to the members of your subcommittee, added to those spoken by my wife, is that this committee not let this issue disappear. I ask that the appropriate staff assignments be made to explore the facts of this situation. I ask that your staffs not accept the easy and often politically palatable explanations you are going to hear when you talk to those whose views are different from my own.

I guess I am asking that you exercise the same sort of leadership on this issue that is typical of this committee's past record.

And I trust that this will be viewed as a nonpartisan issue, for it is. It is an issue of children who want homes, and homes being there. It is an issue of more kids next Thanksgiving at their own dinner tables, with their own forever families.

It is an issue of love.

Thank you, Senator.

[The supplemented statements of Jan and Garland Dennett follows:]

Supplement to the Statements of

Jan Dennett and Garland Dennett

before the Senate Subcommittee on Families and Human Resources

November 18, 1983

I

Attached to this statement is a letter from the District Director of one IRS office in this country. I believe the attitude of this letter, and the fact that this office originally refused a claimed deduction under the provisions of PL 97-34, indicates the difficulty some families will have in taking advantage of the work of the U.S. Congress on this issue. There certainly may be other offices not contacted by a United States Senator, who will continue to disallow the deduction, and families who will not test the ruling.

In addition, the letter indicates that special needs children placed by private agents will not be granted the deduction. It seems to me the intent of both PL 97-34 and the technical amendments in PL 97-448, suggest a different interpretation. A child either is, or is not special needs.

News of this interpretation, of even the threat of an IRS audit, may mitigate the value of the special needs deduction.

I urge that this Committee, and the Senate Finance Committee take the necessary steps to remedy this matter.

II

Of the three issues presented in our testimony, two can be reduced to become minor impediments to adoption if a

system of financial incentives were placed into the Social Services block grants. Especially since a large portion of the moneys which the states spend to finance their foster care programs originates in Washington, I believe the following would have immediate and lasting effects.

Step One: The state entitlement for foster care subsidy and for case work costs be increased by 40% during the fist six months of state custody. The most difficult portion of case work is properly assessing the situation and making judgements as to what plan of action should be pursued immediately after the agency assumes temporary custody. These additional funds would permit clearer judgements because more staff time and attention could be paid. It would also encourage quicker custody decisions.

Step Two: After six months the subsidy should be reduced to the normal appropriation level. In essence this permits up to one year for the State to make custody judgements and to actively seek permanent families, because;

Step Three: After one year, and each succeeding six month interval, the subsidy be reduced by 20%. Any child in custody beyond 3 years would receive no federal support.

This process would require closer accounting than is now present. States with more rapid turnover would receive a financial windfall, states with lengthy average foster stays would lose. This incentive would not allow the continuance of artificial racial barriers because of the severity of the financial penalty and the current reliance on federal dollars.

Certainly an effort would have to be made to identify a procedure whereby certain children would be exempted from the time table. There are cases, no doubt, where placement is unlikely, and the states should not be penalized. Perhaps allowing the State to choose the accelerated schedule would be option enough.

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The on balance effect of this procedure would have two outcomes with one dollar value.

If the States, on balance, increase rapidity of placement, the Federal governemnt saves because of the long term reduction in foster subsidies.

If the States do not accelerate, the Fed saves because payment is reduced and eventually terminated.

III

Last month the Office of Human Development Services of the Department of Health and Human Services, released a new study done by the Maximus Corporation which suggests that foster care numbers have reduced from 500,000 in the last decade to 273,000 this year. Further, Assistant Secretary Dorcas Hardy says that the number of minority kids in foster care has dropped significantly.

I believe the Maximus study is fatally flawed, and is, in fact, beyond the realm of honest belief. There is no interested group that I have identified which believes the Maximus data, including a good number of people at HHS. The data base was bad, random sampling was not present, and definitions were skewed to produce positive results.

The study does show the attitude at OHDS, however, that if we ignore this issue long enough, it might go away. I do not mean that HHS is not dealing with many of the important questions of foster care and adoption. Rather, the political reality and the barriers issue has paralyzed their effectiveness.

I encourage the Senate to examine the Maximus study from any impartial and scientific perspective. And I urge that consideration be given to legislative initiatives which would create at least a data base to assess the real numbers of foster children, the current rate of placement, and the more complicated question of whether or not trans-racial adoptions are a good or a bad social policy.

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Internal Revenue Service

District
Director

Department of the Treasury

P.O. Box 2068, Salt Lake City, Ut 84110

November 3, 1983

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senate
135 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

This is in response to your letter dated October 19, 1983, expressing your concern over the deductibility of adoption expenses regarding children with special needs. In the letter, you have expressed what the intent of P.L. 97-34 and P.L. 97-448 was, when signed into law.

Internal Revenue Code Section 222(c)(2) reads: "The term 'child with special needs' means any child determined by the state to be a child described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 473(c) of the Social Security Act." Section 473(c)(1) and (2) of the Social Security Act reads, "(C) For purposes of this section, a child shall not be considered a child with special needs unless:

(1) The State has determined the child cannot or should not be returned to the home of his parents; and

(2) The State had first determined (A) that there exists with respect to the child a specific factor or condition (such as his ethnic background, age, or membership in a minority or sibling group, or the presence of factors such as medical conditions or physical, mental, or emotional handicaps) because of which it is reasonable to conclude that such child cannot be placed with adoptive parents without providing adoption assistance, and (B) that except where it would be against the best interest of the child . . ., effort has been made to place the child with appropriate adoptive parents without providing adoption assistance under this section."

In both the Internal Revenue Code and the Social Security Act, the key word is State. The State will make the final determination regarding children with special needs. Therefore, one would interpret that if the State does not certify that a child is one who meets the special needs criteria, no adoption expense would be allowable. However, since the receipt of your letter, Sharman Yamamoto, who is a member of my staff, has done some research regarding this issue.

Mr. Yamamoto has read the Internal Revenue Code, Social Security Act, Public Law 97-34, Public Law 97-448 and the legislative history regarding adoption expenses. He has also contacted the State Social Service. The State Social Service has told him that when they issue a license to an adoption agency, they are also granting that agency the authority to determine if a child meets the special needs qualification. Without this input, we would still hold that the State would have to certify a child as one who qualifies as a child with special needs. Therefore, we have changed our position and will allow a taxpayer adoption expenses providing the agency is licensed with the State of Utah and they certify that the child is one that meets the criteria set down in IRC 222(c) and Social Security Act 473(c).

You have indicated that you have been notified by your constituents that the IRS has disallowed adoption expenses related to children with special needs. If these taxpayers would file a Form 1040X (Amended Return) indicating that the adoption expense was incurred for children with special needs, we will reconsider our position providing they too met the rules of IRC 222 and SSA 473.

If we can be of further assistance, please notify our office.

Sincerely,

Virgil Richmond
Acting District Director

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Senator DENTON. Thank you, Mr. Dennett.

I must acknowledge that the subject which you went into in some detail is not one with which I have developed deep familiarity, but I promise you, I shall. The young woman on my left, who is the staff director of this subcommittee, is steeped in the experience in that field and is responsible for the emphasis being presented in this hearing on this subject, through your voice and from your heart. I am trying to alert this body and this Nation; that is, the Senate and our country, to the fact that we just cannot get so modern and sophisticated that we can afford to forget and neglect the No. 1 resource of civilization or nationhood, the family. It is the hothouse of the development of citizenry, as well as being many other important things for people.

We have come to recognize the way a woman can do more things than be a wife and mother. We have placed appropriate emphasis on the need to permit them to do so with equal pay and equal opportunity. But in my own observation, as we have done that and praised the woman Ph. D., and the woman M.D. and the woman lawyer, we have failed to retain the perception in our hierarchy of values that the noblest profession of all is parenting. It is also one we cannot do without. So I hope we do have enough women and enough men who see the efficacy and nobility and joy of rearing children. And the word rear, is a very important word. It means imparting a great deal besides love.

Well, we are going to take a real risk here and let the kids talk. And as usual, they will probably have the wisest things to say.

So, let's see if we can start with the Kuharski family, and their eldest, Christine. She is 15 years old. And we are going to ask each of them what they like most about their families.

So, there you are. I met you first, Christine, what do you have to say, Christine, on that subject?

Ms. CHRISTINE KUHARSKI. Hi, Senator Denton.

I am the oldest of our family, and I think big families are great, because we always have a lot of exciting things going on. Every summer, we go up to our cabin, and we have fun swimming, waterskiing and playing baseball. Our family is special to me because we are a close family.

Adopting is great, because it is giving other kids a chance for a family and helps the mothers turn away from killing their babies through abortion.

Senator DENTON. OK. Thank you, Christine. How about you, Timothy?

Mr. TIMOTHY KUHARSKI. Senator Denton, my name is Tim, and I think that being part of a big family is fun. One, you never run out of friends to play with. Two, you are like a big circle of friendship, close to each other.

As the third oldest, I have my responsibilities, and I have to set examples.

We waterski at my grandma's cabin, and last year, we saved our money, and we all went to Colorado.

I think adoption is great, because it gives other kids a chance to be part of a big family.

Me and my brother, Charlie, play sports together.

Thank you.

Senator DENTON. Thank you, Timothy. You also don't have to look very far to find somebody to fight with—that is the way it was in our family. But it was a fun part of my life, I will say that.

Go ahead. Now, we are hearing from Charlie.

Mr. CHARLIE KUHARSKI. Senator Denton, my name is Charley, and the only time I know I am different is when I look in the mirror, and then I know I am special.

That's all.

Senator DENTON. That is all right, son. Say it again, because those buzzers were going, and put that mike a little closer to your mouth.

Mr. CHARLIE KUHARSKI. Well, the only time I know I am different is when I look in the mirror, and then I know I am special.

Senator DENTON. Yes, you are different in a special kind of way. All right.

Now, I must say that Charlie, who just spoke, was in the Baby Lift from Vietnam. Among his other experiences, his records were burned in a C5A plane crash, so his precise nationality is unknown. He had medical difficulties—minor eye infections, extensive dental problems and emotional trauma, which came from the family dislocation and loss he underwent. And obviously, he is a healthy, cheerful and attractive young guy now.

OK, Tina.

Ms. TINA KUHARSKI. Thank you. Hi. I am Tina. I was born in 1971, and I came from the Philippines.

I think adoption is great because if you cannot have babies homemade, you always can adopt a few.

I like playing the piano, and I am great at sports. I have passed the presidential physical fitness test three times.

Thank you.

Senator DENTON. Well, I haven't seen anyone more beautiful than you, darling. When you were adopted, the medical prognosis was questionable because of a misshapen head and a cephal-hematoma lump on the back of the head, which turned into a calcium deposit. It is amazing that with that trouble at the beginning, a little love and a little grace of God, and now you are so beautiful and happy today.

OK, Vincent, how about you, little buddy?

Mr. VINCENT KUHARSKI. I came from Calcutta, India, and I like my family.

Me and Tony practice football, and I hope I can play football with my big brother, just like him.

Senator DENTON. What is the story about the letter you wrote to President Reagan?

Mr. VINCENT KUHARSKI. I wrote him a letter, and I wanted to know what kind of hearing aid he had.

Senator DENTON. What was that?

Mrs. VINCENT KUHARSKI. Senator Denton, Vincent has a submucous cleftpalate——

Senator DENTON. Oh, I know that.

Mrs. VINCENT KUHARSKI. It causes his speech to be—we are used to it, but it might be a little difficult for you to understand.

Vincent was fitted this year for a hearing aid behind both ears, and he wears them beautifully, and he is now playing the piano

beautifully and hearing things beautifully. And one of the things—we do not wish other people to have problems or medical disabilities, but we did kind of rejoice at our house when we saw the front page of our Minneapolis paper where our President of the United States was fitted for a hearing aid. And Vincent felt that he was in good company, and so he wrote him—which was no small assignment, either, because he has not been writing English that well—so the letter, as short as it was, took him about 5½ hours, and he really did go at it straight. And he wrote the President, telling him a little bit about himself and then asking—he was just very curious to know what kind of hearing aid it is—I do not know why, but kids go for details like that—he wanted to know if it was behind the ear, in the ear, or what.

Do you want to tell him?

Mr. VINCENT KUHARSKI. I have one behind the ear, and it was just like mine, only it was inside the ear.

Senator DENTON. It was just like yours and inside his ear, right?

Mr. VINCENT KUHARSKI. Yes.

SENATOR DENTON. Yes, I understood that. Well, I can understand your interest in that. I can remember certain situations in prison where I was very interested in what kind of rig the other guy was in, and he was interested in what kind I was in. We could not, move anything, but we could still think and live and love. And Vincent has a lot more going for him than not having that life and love.

OK, Tony, how about you, buddy?

Mr. TONY KUHARSKI. Hi; I am 11-years old, and I love my family.

I share a room with my brother. I have a paper route. We use our paper route money to go on vacations.

I think adoption is great. I was adopted when I was 2 months old.

I like to play football, and I learned to water ski this summer.

Senator DENTON. Well, thank you very much, Anthony. That is pretty good reading for a guy that is not from the United States originally.

May I read the background on him?

Mrs. KUHARSKI. Yes.

Senator DENTON. Well, he is 11 now, and he arrived from the Toam nursery in Vietnam at the age of 2 months, weighing 5 pounds. He was diagnosed as suffering from starvation, diarrhea, malnutrition, dehydration and unwillingness to respond, scabies, minor infections, possible deafness, and possibly expected to be a retarded/slow learner.

And according to the writeup here from his parents, "His only difficulty after the first 6 months of praying him through the worst of it is that he cannot hold still, he is hyperactive, and cannot stop talking." [Laughter.]

Senator DENTON. "He is doing just fine," it says, and he is full Vietnamese.

Theresa?

Ms. THERESA KUHARSKI. Hi; I am Theresa.

I play the piano. I took swimming lessons. I was born in America.

I am 9 years old. I like my family.

Senator DENTON. Thank you, darling.

Mrs. KUHARSKI. Senator, if I may just comment here with regard to what Mr. Dennett described earlier, the only reason why we were able to adopt Theresa as our first black-American adoption—because there is this silent boycott on white families adopting minority children—is because we are now considered to be a minority family, because we have so many other children of other races that were already in the family. So, isn't it ironic that we could get them from all over the world, and they could be as dark or as light as possible, but we could not get one from the United States here. So we have now become a minority family.

Senator DENTON. Well, we have come through a lot of conditioning in this country, a lot of coincidental inheritances of situations and attitudes. I think we are making progress with them.

We still have to hear from some rather young ones, now. I do not know whether Mary Elizabeth is going to talk for herself. She is 5 years old.

She has so many dimples, I don't think her tongue can get out there. [Laughter.]

Mrs. KUHARSKI. She is a little embarrassed.

Senator DENTON. All right. Your face said it all. I wish it could have been seen in the back there.

What about Angela, can you tell us about her?

They all look pretty happy.

How about Karen? I know that Karen won't be able to speak for herself.

She has a big smile, too. Hi, Karen.

All right, let us go over to the Dennett side now, and see if we can hear from Shaun.

Mr. SHAUN DENNETT. Hi; I am 7.

I like to play ball with my Dad and my brothers.

Senator DENTON. Mostly baseball, softball?

Mr. SHAUN DENNETT. Baseball.

Senator DENTON. I still have a sore little finger when one of my kids hit a ball down third base and jammed my little finger halfway up my hand. We had practically a full ball team with seven kids and my wife and friends.

All right. Where are we?

Ryan is 6.

Mr. DENNETT. Yes; Ryan asked me to tell you that he would submit a lengthy written statement later. [Laughter.]

Senator DENTON. OK. Without objection, Ryan's lengthy written statement will be included in the record.

And Justin and Hermeline, what would you care to say?

Ms. HERMELINE BEGAY. Hi.

I like to stay with my foster parents. They are nice to me.

Senator DENTON. Hermeline is 11. I am sorry, darling. I was skipping down to Justin. I am sorry I missed you.

Go ahead, sweetheart. Now, you are Indian, right?

Ms. HERMELINE BEGAY. Yes.

Senator DENTON. Do you know what tribe?

Ms. HERMELINE BEGAY. Navajo.

Senator DENTON. Navajo.

Ms. HERMELINE BEGAY. I am doing fine at school, and I do good in my sports at school, and I am doing fine.

Senator DENTON. You do good in your work at school?

Ms. HERMELINE BEGAY. Yes.

Senator DENTON. OK. And then, there is Justin.

Mrs. DENNETT. Justin, yes. I think you heard from him the whole meeting.

Senator DENTON. Well, he is pretty good at throwing things.

Mrs. DENNETT. Hermeline is our Indian placement. She is under foster care in our family. She has a family back in Mexican Hat, Utah, that loves her very much and has decided that what they want for Hermeline is to have a good education and have given Hermeline to us for the year.

Senator DENTON. I would like to ask the parents one question, and you can keep it brief for now, but if you want to communicate any written observations or recommendations to us, which you would like to see followed up on or looked into, please do so. They will be most welcome.

Your example, your experience, your observations are obviously astute. Could you describe particular State laws or Federal laws creating a disincentive for governments to promote or permit adoption? You have mentioned some of the effects, but what are those laws? Are they regulations by departments? Are they laws that Congress has passed?

Mr. DENNETT. In the instance of several States, new legislation is being introduced and has been passed in a couple of States, including, I believe, in Minnesota, which essentially sets a priority for adoption which everyone applauds, and that is that when it is possible, the child should be placed with a family of similar racial and ethnic background. But the effect is that while social workers probe the system to find families that fit those descriptions, the children go unplaced, and where in some cases, it is actual law, in most instances, it is just an unspoken or at least an unofficial policy that is circulated among the social workers, who make in most cases the ultimate decision.

In my written testimony that is included along with the oral statement, I have specified some instances of where that happens, and in my view, some recommendations as to how the Federal Government can provide an incentive to encourage the States to be more active in placement.

Senator DENTON. Thank you, and you may be sure that we will follow up on those.

How about the Kuharskis?

Mrs. KUHARSKI. Senator Denton, in Minnesota, in 1970 when we first looked into adoption, we were told by the first agency that we worked with that they would encourage us to go for a Korean or other minority adoption. Vietnam was just opening up at this time. We were told that we would not be allowed to adopt a mixed racial or minority child from the United States, because there was an unwritten law in Minnesota that really said that white families do not adopt minority children. And so that is how we began our international family or interracial family, by adopting first through the Philippines, then twice through Vietnam, and then, of course, that made us a minority family.

What is happening in Minnesota since then—we were known in our State as being—nothing against Utah—but we were known in

the State of Minnesota, from what I understand of adoption, after being in the process for over 12 or 13 years, as being the leader in transracial, interracial, mixed racial adoption. In other words, there were more families in Minnesota who had minority or mixed race or interracial children in adoption than any other State.

This year for the first time—and I admit my negligence—I have watched real carefully, but I did not know this bill was being considered, and I did not know it passed until it was already passed—for the first time, it was written into our law now that all minority adoptions through agencies had to first, after a reasonable period of time, they could be placed with white families, but only after a reasonable period of time and after they had first sought to place the child within the child's own family setting, if possible—in other words, a distant relative, if the mother or father could not care for the child—then, they had to look for a member of that community; and then and only then, after they had sought a member with the same racial or cultural heritage, could they seek an adoptive family outside the community.

I would applaud that. I just think as a mother myself, it would be far easier for our own children and for our other children if we can teach them things about their own cultural heritage. As I said in my statement, I do not pretend to know everything about the culture and heritage of other nationalities and other races.

The problem is that we have a very small percentage of people who are mixed racial, black, minority, Indian in Minnesota, and there is even a smaller percent of those who are seeking adoption. Even if we tried—and they have—the agencies for the last 10 years have tried extensive recruitment to try and recruit families from those areas to adopt children. And they, like many families, want a small, newborn, perfect infant. They are not yet ready, let us say, to adopt a child with special needs or a child who is older. But some of us are, because we are a little bit braver, because we have gone through the hard knocks process of gaining a little bit more courage to do that kind of thing.

In the meantime, the child then becomes locked in the system, so to speak, shifted from foster home to foster home to foster home.

And what is so ironic is that we say we are protecting this child from being placed with a family that cannot—I have just been appointed by the Governor of our State to be on the Minnesota Advisory Task Force, advising the Governor on foster parents and adoption of minority children. I am a minority on this task force. I am the only adoptive parent on this task force of some 30 people, and I would venture to say quite safely that I am probably a small percentage—you know, there are a few who join me on this task force who believe as I do, that a child is not served well in society, it is not in the child's best interest, when the child is left in a system of moving from home to home and has no permanence.

There are some--I have learned the hard way—my husband knows that this committee is going to give me high blood pressure—I come home and feel like crying, because there are some who feel that a child is almost better off shifting from home to home and having no permanence and no family rather than being placed with a white family. So I am hearing remarks about how terrible it is that a white family did not know how to comb an Afro

hairdo. And my feeling is, thank God we had the white family who wanted a minority child and who wanted to comb an Afro hairdo, instead of slicking it back, or cutting it off, or making braids, or making it look white. We are trying our best. But the basic thing we are trying to offer is permanence, which we think all children deserve, and love.

And getting back to what I said before, I do not see how any—I could not have been secure if I did not have a permanent home when I was adopted, and I do not think many other children can really have much cultural pride if they find out that it is that very culture or system or heritage that is keeping them from a permanent family.

So the ironic thing about the Minnesota law that just passed is that there is an exclusion in our law which says that they will not enforce this law for children coming from other countries. So in other words, it now becomes far easier again in Minnesota to get a child, whatever the color, race, background, or heritage, from another country than it is to fight the system within our own State or other States.

So I think what we have done is to put up roadblocks to families. The task force I was just on last week that met was even considering giving parents psychological tests before they are allowed to adopt minority children.

I honestly believe my husband and I would have failed this test—I know we would have. We did not know what we were bargaining for—I would have failed a test on natural parenting. I was not ready. Nobody warned me what I was getting into. I cried for the first 3 months.

So I just think we really have to have faith, not only in families, but in God, and really believe that what we are doing—or make all laws with the criterion in mind that we want to help the child, and we must make laws that are really in the best interest of the child. I think if we think of it that way, we might go a little bit easier, rather than doing what is most convenient or satisfactory for the adults involved.

Senator DENTON. Thank you very much.

As I said, we will look into anything that you submit to us in writing with great care and diligence. I think everyone in the room would join me in congratulating the parents and the children. Thank you for presenting us with not only valuable testimony, but an example of what we should all strive to be, and hope about what your children will be as citizens when they do grow up.

Thank you very much for taking the trouble to come today.

[The prepared statement of the Kuharski children follows:]

I am the oldest of our family and I think big families are great because we always have a lot of exciting things going on. Every summer we go up to our cabin and have fun swimming, waterskiing and playing baseball. Our family is special to me because we are a close family. Adopting is great because it's giving other kids a chance for a family and it helps the mothers turn away from killing their babies through abortion. In 1981 I won the top prize in the state Science fair.

Chrissy "15"

My name is Charlie and I'm adopted. I love our family. We might have arguments, but any human family will have arguments.

We also have a great school with friends. We also have great teachers-coaches who bring us good seasons in sports. We won the Twin City Championship in football.

I have natural talents in which I use in sports.

There is really only one time which you know you are a different race, is when you look in the mirror. Then you know you are special.

Charlie Kukanski 13yo. Cambodian

Being part of a big family is fun, 1. you never run out of friends to play with, 2. you are like a big circle of friendship. As the third oldest I have my responsibilities and I have to set examples. We waterski at my grandma's cabin and last year we saved our money and went to Colorado, and me and Charlie play a lot of sports together.

Jim age 13

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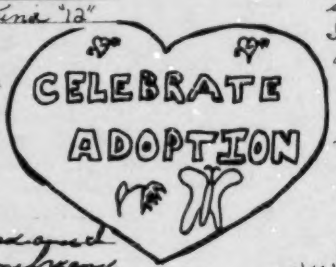
Hi I'm Tina I was born in 1971 and I came home the Phiippines I think adoption is great because if you can't have babies home made you always can adopt a few. I like playing the piano and I'm great at sports! I've passed the Presidential Physical fitness 3 times. Tina "12"

Kari Ann 1½

I am 11 years old and I love my family. I share a room with a brother. I have a paper route. We use our paper route money to go on vacations. I think adoption is great. I was adopted when I was two months old. I like to play football and I learned to waterski this summer. Tony Rikarski from Jersey



Angela

I am adopted and I like my family and I am 12 years old and now I can tell a little. I came 12 years ago from Calcutta India. I like school and we are going to have a new baby and I have 5 friends they came from Calcutta India. Love Vincent Kuharski

MARY KUHARSKI 5

Theresa Kuharski

I play the piano. I took Swimming lessons. I was born in America I am nine years old. I like my family.

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Senator DENTON. The next panel can come forward, if they will: The Schaus family, from Troy, Ala.; the Smith family, from Frederick, Md.; and the Godley family, from Washington, D.C.

Well, it is not a coincidence that the Schaus family comes from Alabama, not entirely. We had a family from Utah, and we have two from Alabama.

I want to welcome the Schaus family and their son, Dale Lunn. I invite Don and Marilyn to make whatever opening statement each would care to make.

STATEMENT OF THE DON AND MARILYN SCHAUS FAMILY, TROY, ALA.; THE BEVERLY SMITH FAMILY, FREDERICK, MD., AND THE ANITA GODLEY FAMILY, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. SCHAUS. I would like to have my wife go first.

Senator DENTON. All right, Mrs. Schaus. Be sure and place the mike fairly close to your mouth, if you will.

Mrs. SCHAUS. Senator Denton and members of the subcommittee, first, let me start by saying thank you for the opportunity to come and tell you about the Adolescent Family Life program in Pike County, Ala.

Senator DENTON. I still cannot hear you, Mrs. Schaus.

I want to remind the audience that these three families are here willing to discuss with us some rather personal and yet, very important topics, concerning sex education, sexual activity, teenage pregnancy, and parenthood. The Schaus family has had experience with the grantee of the Adolescent Family Life Act, which I originated here in the Senate.

Go ahead, Mrs. Schaus.

Mrs. SCHAUS. I first learned of the program being taught in the 10th grade when my teenager announced one night at the dinner table, "Well, I guess I had better get an education if I want a family of my own, because it sure costs a lot of money."

Our reply was, "Well, we have been telling you that, but what made you see the light?"

He went on to say that in his life styles class at school, they were discussing the do's and don'ts of dating, and the problems that come about due to making the wrong decisions about sexual activity.

The more we learned from him about the class, the more interested I became, because I do volunteer work at the local hospital, and I see so many young teenage girls leave with a new baby.

As we all know, the teen years are a time of physical and emotional growth, the change from child to adult, and it is a time when questions are being raised and decisions are being made about sexual activity.

In Pike County alone, 26 percent of all women giving birth are teenagers—a rate that is 52.9 percent higher than the national average. Seven out of 10 pregnant teens receive no prenatal care in the first 3 months, and one of every three abortions performed are on teenagers.

Adoption is something they do not totally understand. However, the promotion of adoption as a viable option to these young women

is promoted through the educational component of the Adolescent Family Life program in the schools and in the clinics.

Pregnancy is the most common cause of high school dropout among young women. Often, pregnant teenagers begin a cycle of unemployment and welfare dependency that continues through life.

The goal of the program is to reduce the number of teen pregnancies in Pike County and to insure the best possible care for the mother and child when pregnancies do occur.

The following services are provided:

Pregnancy testing; adoption counseling and referral; health service, before and after delivery; nutrition information and counseling; referral for screening and treatment of venereal disease; pediatric care; educational services relating to family life and problems associated with adolescent premarital sexual relations; educational and vocational services; mental health services; family planning services.

The program also works to bring together community organizations in working for teenage parenthood prevention and care of the pregnant teen.

Schools, churches, and child health centers, as well as the teenagers and their families, all share the responsibility.

The life styles program taught in the schools is geared to meet the needs of both boys and girls in mixed groups. It gives them a chance to build a confidential and accepting relationship with someone who understands them and with whom they can discuss their problems, express their emotions and work toward solutions to those problems.

Since the program has been put in the schools, 70 percent of the pregnant teenage girls in Pike County are now attending school.

The program in the schools deals with dating, relationships, building self-esteem, making decisions, love and marriage, needs of the child, learning to know yourself, and personal growth.

When I asked my teenage son what he learned from the class, his answer was, "Self-esteem, and where my priorities lie."

I recently had the opportunity to sit in a class and observe. The students shared with each other very openly and seemed to appreciate the chance to share their feelings and questions. This is a serious time for them. One student made the comment, "I only wish my parents would take a life styles class. Then, maybe they would understand."

I also have had the privilege to attend and chat with the pregnant teenage girls during a recent visit to the clinic. They ranged in age from 15 to 19; some are even 10 years old. One of the girls shared with me that she did not know she was pregnant until she was in a Life Styles class at school, and she knew nothing about birth control. It was in the class that for the first time, she could talk openly about her emotions and her feelings. Her comment to me was:

> If I could have had this class one year earlier, I would not be pregnant today. But because of the Adolescent Family Life Program, I am still attending school and will be able to continue after my baby is born. I have learned to be independent and to think for myself.

This teenage girl was 15 years old.

Senator DENTON. Thank you very much, Mrs. Schaus.

Mr. Schaus—oh, we are going to go to Dale now.

Dale?

Mr. DALE LUNN. Senator Denton, members of the Senate subcommittee, and staff, my name is Dale Richard Lunn. I am a student at Charles Henderson High School in Troy, Ala.

I wish to take this time to express my deepest appreciation for allowing me to speak before you on the importance of this life styles program.

I first heard of this program about 1½ years ago. My first thoughts of this program were really negative. Once I began to take the class, I found out that the life styles program really had a worthwhile purpose, and that was the development of values and to put them in the right perspective.

The county in which I live, which is Pike, has a very high teenage pregnancy rate. In fact, 2 years ago, it had the highest teenage pregnancy rate of any other county in the Nation. The problem extends from the ages of 10 through 19. I believe the life styles program is a positive way to help solve teenage pregnancy problems.

The program teaches us that if we feel good about ourselves, that this will bring about self-respect and confidence. All of this is in essence the building of self-esteem, which every teenager must have.

As individuals, we have self-esteem that helps us give greater priorities to our values—things that we believe in. The program encourages us to make the values publicly known so that our peers know what we believe in. When we make our values publicly known, then we are telling everyone that we are willing to act upon them.

When we are able to express our values to our peers and to our parents, this is a sign of effective communication. The program wants us to be able to express our values to our parents. There are so many instances where parents and teenagers are unable to communicate. The program recognizes this as a major problem with teenagers. I am fortunate to say that my parents and I can talk freely among one another and discuss major issues at hand. This is a major asset to me.

Self-esteem and values are the building blocks to decisionmaking. If teenagers have confidence and self-respect, along with good values, then the person will be able to make a reasonable decision on various issues.

The primary goal of this class is to help bring down the problem of teenage pregnancies. The program emphasizes on what can happen if teenagers have intercourse in their adolescent years. When more teenagers are told about the sexually transmitted diseases and what can happen if they have intercourse, and that they can catch a disease, they are going to be more apt not to have intercourse in their adolescent years.

The life styles program is trying to let the teenagers know that they are important in society. The program will not solve the teenage pregnancy problem, but will definitely decrease the number of pregnancies among teenagers.

Thank you.

Senator DENTON. Thank you, Dale, very much.

Mr. Schaus?

Mr. SCHAUS. Senator Denton, members of the subcommittee and staff, my name is Donald William Schaus. I live in Troy, Ala. in the county of Pike. My wife's name is Marilyn and we have been married for just short of 3 years. We have one son, Dale, living at home. We have two married sons living in Orlando, Fla.; one granddaughter, 1 year old; and the other couple is expecting a child in December. We also have one single daughter, who lives in Orlando.

We moved to Troy, Ala., in June 1982. Dale moved with us and began the 10th grade at Charles Henderson High School in August 1982. He has been nearly a perfect teenager.

The Troy community is the finest youth-oriented area that I have ever experienced. We have been pleased with the positive attitude and the effect of Charles Henderson High School, First Baptist Church of Troy, and the city of Troy.

Our general family situation is one of mutual understanding and trust of each other. Dale was and is a well-adjusted young man, primarily due to the level of his own personal self-esteem. He is a self-motivated individual who requires very little prodding. My wife and I try to constantly create an atmosphere of openness and frankness. I sincerely believe that Dale feels free to ask or discuss anything that he wishes to bring up. It is my opinion that this is not true in several homes today.

The life styles program presented at Charles Henderson High School has definitely reinforced Dale's wholesome attitude. I feel the life styles program taught by competent instructors is very necessary in our schools today. In fact, I believe it should be a national mandatory course for our young people, first at approximately the 7th grade level, and again at about grade 10 or 11.

My wife and I recently attended a life styles class. The group included male and female, both 10th and 11th graders. The students very openly discussed dating in our presence without any apparent reservations. It was my observation that most of the students were anxious to discuss the issues and learn. They appeared to be hungry for information and guidance.

If we are to remain a strong nation, then we must have strong families. Strong famlies should be based on two adult members who are mature rather than the one adolescent, immature family head.

Our communities, churcbes, schools, and a life styles program should strengthen the family unit.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinions.

Senator DENTON. Thank you, Mr. Schaus.

The program to which you refer, the life styles program, just to make it clear, is a program which originated from the gentleman who is the Administrator, at Charles Henderson Child Health Center. This has been that adolescent family life grantee's approach to the need for sex education. This approach is somewhat different from that which Government policy supported before the passage of the Adolescent Family Life Act.

Some of the media have handled the adolescent family life law as though it were something absurd, prudish, and so on. I am glad to hear you testify that you think it is helpful. There has never been

any doubt in my mind—especially under today's pressures—that there is the need for sex education. I also realize that there is a special difficulty between parent and child on that subject. But once the communication begins, say, in a program such as the one you have discussed, that barrier tends to erode. I believe that such programs aid in the behavior of the minors to be more oriented toward their long-range happiness rather than, say, instant self-gratification.

The American Civil Liberties Union, as you might know, has brought suit against the Adolescent Family Life Act, on the basis that it constitutes establishment of religion. I believe the suit will be thrown out of court on a move to dismiss. There is still a need for a great deal of information about the program, and I am glad that you were here to communicate about the grantee in Troy, Ala. If I have to, I will go to considerable lengths to defend the Adolescent Family Life Act, because there are excellent programs all across the country. I visited the one in Troy and met its Administrator John Little. I was very happy to hear from you, Mr. and Mrs. Schaus and Dale.

If you will remain there while the others testify, you can help answer questions which we present to the panel later.

I will turn to the Godley family now. I want to welcome you and thank you for coming.

Mrs. Godley, would you tell us about your involvement with the Cities-in-Schools program here?

Mrs. GODLEY. OK.

My name is Anita Godley. When I first took my daughter to Cities-in-Schools, it was August 14, 1982. My daughter was then with the medical part of the clinic, where they examined her real good.

Then, being there, I found out that I was more happy there and more content, because they explained things to us that we did not know.

When she left the medical part, they referred her to the dietician and helped her to eat the right types of foods.

Then, the dieticians referred us to the social worker. When I got to the social worker, I got to understand things about myself and my two kids that I did not understand. Before I got to Cities-in-Schools, I was having a little difficulty in my family, but once I got to talking to the social worker, I learned how to deal more with my son. My son has a little problem. Right now, he is a slow learner. He is in a special school, and he is learning better to read. Since I have been with Cities-in-Schools, my son has come a long way, with them helping me to deal with the problems in the home and giving me the knowledge to be able to fix myself up a little better so that my kids can follow my direction.

I was alone raising my two kids, but after going to Cties-in-Schools, I learned that I had a priority to my kids to let them know that they were supposed to mind and do what I tell them. But I also learned that my kids have rights as kids, and to let them know that we could sit down and talk as a family. By going to Cities-in-Schools, we got to the point where we could sit down and talk as a family.

The programs in Cities-in-Schools when I went there, with the medical, the social worker and the dietician, helped us a lot. They helped me learn how to plan my meals a lot better and helped me learn how I could deal with my daughter and her pregnancy.

When my daughter came to me and told me she was pregnant—before we went to Cities-in-Schools—I took her to a clinic, and I sat down and I talked to her, and I got her into the clinic as soon as I could. But dealing with Cities-in-Schools, they sat down and gave us a better understanding, as human beings, of how to deal with our family.

Senator DENTON. Thank you very much, Mrs. Godley.

I cannot help remarking at this point, I think all three of the families here would agree that if there is Government-funded sex counseling, sexuality advice, sex education, and so on, which, on balance, does nothing to introduce the idea of responsibility to the minor, there is a problem. The thrust of some programs is to motivate the minor to become sexually involved, by giving prescription birth control drugs and devices in order to participate in sexual activity. When all of this is conducted without the parent ever being involved at all, I think this is wrong.

I remember Secretary Schweiker expressing his grave concerns about this thrust at a hearing held by the House. The rules were proposed by Secretary Schweiker. They are now enjoined by the courts and I hope the administration decides to appeal.

Recognizing the difficulties with sex education and the communications between parents and teens, I believe the parent still deserves the right to have another conversation with their child, before birth control is dispensed because the parent is going to have to bear the consequences, including financial, along with their child. And some good could be done by the parent and child getting together at that point.

Your testimony was very valuable, Mrs. Godley.

Aquilla, 15 years old, had a baby at 14 and is currently attending Eastern High School. She did receive medical and nutritional aid and counseling from Cities-in-Schools, and we would like to hear about that from you, Aquilla.

Miss GODLEY. My name is Aquilla Laverne Godley.

My agency is Cities-in-Schools. I, Aquilla Laverne Godley, enrolled in Cities-in-Schools Adolescent Health Center on October 14, 1982, at the age of 14.

The reason I chose Cities-in-Schools Adolescent Health Center over all other prenatal services was because they seemed to be concerned, and they explained things I did not understand, and they took the time to help me with my problems and some of my needs.

I had several services there. Some of them are medical. I enjoyed the benefits from the prenatal care that were given by the nurse-midwives. Their childbirth classes helped me through my labor and delivery without any pain or suffering.

The nutritionist was helpful through my pregnancy by making me want to eat the right foods and making me recognize the importance of eating nutritious, well-balanced meals. With the help of the nutritionist, I have a healthy, gorgeous, adorable, and wonderful baby girl.

The social worker, Miss Gloria Flores, gave me and my family food, money, and clothes when we needed them. She was always there when I felt I had no one to talk to about my feelings and problems. My social worker is very helpful to me and my family. She is a kind and understanding person. I consider her as my second mother. I think she deserves a whole lot of credit. Miss Flores also referred me to the young life program. With young life, I went to Windy Gap Camp. Windy Gap is very exciting and fun. We were under spiritual guidance there. We had lots of fun. Some of the things we did that were fun were going horseback-riding, Honda-riding, road-climbing, et cetera.

The point that I am really trying to get across is that Cities-in-Schools is a wonderful program.

Thank you.

Senator DENTON. Thank you, Aquilla.

Last, the Smith family. Beverly Smith and Heather, and I understand Heather is going to go first.

Go ahead, Heather.

Miss SMITH. My name is Heather Smith. I am your average 14-year-old. As a matter of fact, I could even be your daughter. I do not smoke, drink, and I am not on drugs.

I am a high school student pursuing a career in language. I plan to attend college and get my Ph. D. as a linguist.

But most important of all, I want my life to reflect Christ.

I have made many mistakes, like the one I am struggling with now. This pregnancy has caused the roughest time of my life. I have lost many friends, been ignored, and laughed at. I have been the target of many cruel jokes. But I have no regrets about carrying this child. I have a very supportive family. My mother and I have become very close as a result of this new life on the way. She has been my guide, my friend, and my provider. My little brother has also loved me, along with my grandparents, who have given me a lot of financial help.

I have gone to a professional counselor to help me make decisions and plans for the future. My mother has decided to adopt the baby so that I can go on with my life and still have a part in this child's life. I could not have done this without Christ, for He has taken a negative experience and made it a positive one.

Senator DENTON. Well, Heather, you are not alone in making mistakes, but you are a candid and courageous young woman to make the statement you just made.

Mrs. Smith.

Mrs. SMITH. My name is Beverly Smith. I am the director of the Frederick County Crisis Pregnancy Center, in Frederick, Md.

I have been asked to comment on how members of my family have worked together during my daughter's pregnancy and on the struggles and successes of other families which I have assisted when their child is sexually active or becomes pregnant.

I have a lovely daughter. She is the kind of daughter most people dream of having. She is not involved with drugs or alcohol. She does not smoke. She is not rebellious. She enjoys her family and contributes much to the overall happiness of us all. She loves the Lord Jesus Christ, reads her Bible, and attends church regularly.

She is intelligent and wants to go to college and get her Ph. D. in language.

She met a nice young man her age, and they "fell in love." Unfortunately, they made one mistake. They did what God has designed each of us to do or want to do when we fall in love, but not outside of marriage.

That one time resulted in pregnancy.

When I learned what had happened on that occasion, I immediately obtained counseling for us both from a professional Christian family and marriage counselor. This was not the first time he had dealt with this type of situation. He gave us psychological tests to help us to see how we were relating to each other as mother and daughter. And because he is a Christian, he led us through the Scriptures to show us the importance of forgiveness and the value we all have in God's sight.

Once the pregnancy was confirmed, my daughter did not consider abortion a proper alternative. I was very proud of her and totally supported her decision. She did not want to put the child up for adoption. Because of her age, she did not consider marriage an option. Also because of her age, she did not feel she could adequately meet the needs of her child as a parent should. As a result of this situation and through counseling, the decision was made that I would take the responsibility of raising this child.

Because of my experience with the crisis pregnancy center, I knew where to get the best medical care for my daughter, so I made her appointments with a local obstetrician. I have been with her for every appointment.

Our family and the father and his family are taking care of all medical expenses.

Next, I focused on her continuing her education. Again, because of my involvement with the crisis pregnancy center, I knew of the home teaching program provided by the State of Maryland and how to go about obtaining a home teacher for my daughter.

I made the necessary arrangements, and Heather began school the same week as all other students, only at home. As a result, Heather is maintaining her class position and grade level and will be going back to school in January 1984.

What has happened for my daughter is the ideal situation. She has received love and support from her family and the father. She has had good counseling. She is receiving the best in medical care. All the expenses are being met. She has continued her education. She will be able to contribute to the life of the child she is now carrying in her womb. She has received love and support from her brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

But unfortunately, this is the exception and not the rule. In my work with the crisis pregnancy center, I find that families most often turn their backs on their daughter or make demands that she cannot or does not want to fulfill; that the fathers of these children are most often disinterested; that friends and neighbors often turn away, and that even churches fail to live up to their own preaching about love, acceptance, forgiveness, and helping one another by bearing each other's burdens.

I do not have time to go into all of these areas, but let me give some examples from my experience with the Crisis Pregnancy Center.

I received a call from Frederick County Social Services Department one morning, asking me if I could come and pick up a young girl in her fifth month of pregnancy. She had been left there by some friends to receive help. Because of past family problems, she had not been living at home for over a year, and would not be allowed to return now. Social services was unable to find a foster home willing to take her in, since she was of age, 18, and foster parents consequently would receive no income.

Social services knew that one of our services offered is the providing of shepherding homes. These are Christian families who open their hearts and homes to girls who have no home and no love.

The president of our board of directors, Pastor Warren Tamking, responded to the call and brought Sue home to us. Sue came to us with many problems other than pregnancy. One of them was venereal disease, which had to be treated more than once.

Sue maintained her residence with my family, my son, Chad, giving her his bedroom. She became a family member and was treated like one. I encouraged her to begin to renew family ties, to complete her high school education, and design a plan for the life of her baby and herself. She eventually succeeded in restoring her family position and acquiring a job after her daughter was born. Unfortunately, though, Sue found herself dependent on social services for financial and medical support during this time. This happens for so many girls and cannot be avoided unless the father or parents of the girl or the boy takes the initiative in supporting this child.

Do you have any idea what it is like to take a young girl and her 2-month-old daughter to one of the roughest neighborhoods in town, having only the bare necessities, to share a home with a woman she does not even know, and to hope and pray they will be fine? It is depressing.

Then, there is Sara. Lovely to look at. Quiet. Sad brown eyes; 19 years old biologically, and 16 years old mentally. She was adopted herself at the age of 9 months, rejected by her mother before very old, when a mental disability was discovered by doctors at Johns Hopkins University Hospital. She was taken from her parents by social services because of parental abuse and eventually went back home to live again. This created a rebellious Sara and consequently, one who left home and slept anywhere she could.

She quit school and just bummed around. Eventually, she found herself pregnant to a boy she barely knew, but in love with another young man. When the lady she was living with and babysitting for found Sara was pregnant, she asked her to move as soon as possible. Thus, we were contacted by Birthright.

This time, Pastor Tamking made a room in his heart and home for Sara until her baby was 2 months old, at which time, she placed her baby up for adoption, as she was unable to care for her financially, physically, and mentally.

Sara went back to her live-in babysitting situation with an ache and a longing for her own beautiful daughter. If there had been a

home for Sara and her daughter to go to for, say, a period of 1 year, where she would find help and guidance toward a successful future, she would probably be with her little girl today. As it is, Sara is still leading a very active sex life with her boyfriend and is hoping to become pregnant immediately, so as to fill the void created by the loss of her daughter. And she is no more prepared now to raise a child than she was 6 months ago, with the exception of the interest of the father.

Because of our ad in the yellow pages of the phone book, a 17-year-old girl and her 36-year-old sister came to my home to find out if we could help Jean continue her pregnancy, keep her child along with providing her housing, and make it possible for her to receive her high school diploma and acquire a job skill. The father of the baby, I was told, was not interested in this pregnancy at all, but had only offered money for the abortion. He had threatened her in many ways.

I assured her we would meet her financial, medical, and housing needs. I explained how she could continue her high school education. But the last request is always the hardest to fill. The young girl returned home that evening and relayed the news to her parents—who, up until this time, had already made two appointments for her at the abortion clinic that she had not kept—that she would be leaving home.

She had prayed and asked God to make it possible for her to continue this pregnancy and keep her child, as she had already had an abortion in March of this year, and He had answered her prayer through the Crisis Pregnancy Center.

At this point, the parents decided that if strangers could love and provide for their daughter, then so could they, and they are doing just that—loving and supporting their daughter in crisis pregnancy.

I could go on and on with these stories. But the point I would like to make is this. If I thought God called me to only spare an unborn child from abortion and that He did not care what happened to that child or mother after that, I would quit my job as director. I would probably go to work for Planned Parenthood. But I know He has done no such thing.

Just as He has been faithful in taking my daughter and I through this past year and will continue to bless all of our lives in the future, so He desires to do the same for everyone else.

The goal of the Frederick County Crisis Pregnancy Center is to answer the call of God by providing a hotline, an open office, free pregnancy testing, professional counseling, financial and medical assistance, and a home for the mother-to-be. We will also offer birth and parenting classes.

We never, ever counsel abortion. We believe it is wrong, and we do not counsel this way under any circumstances.

However, God has placed another burden on me. This is to provide a home situation for both mother and child; to take her off the welfare line; to equip her mentally, physically, and spiritually to take responsibility for herself and her child in a successful and respectful manner; to restore love and self-esteem; to acquaint her with the person of Jesus Christ who has a plan for her life and her child's life.

Sound impossible? Without God, it is, but "with God, all things are possible." For without a personal relationship with the living Christ, the Son of God, and our personal savior, my daughter and I would probably not be sitting here today with you, sharing our story, because our story would probably be like all of the other stories I have just shared with you.

We have also been upheld and bathed in love by our brothers and sisters in Christ.

There is one more thing to this testimony which is not on any of my other copies, but I feel it is very important. I have been a single parent for 8 years, and this has been the most painful and difficult situation that I have faced. Up until now, it has been relatively easy to help my children, but this is not one of those "kiss it and make it better" deals.

I could not put a Band-Aid on Heather and send her back out to play and tell her she would be OK. No, this has not been easy, and it seems as though years have passed instead of just months.

But I do not regret my decision to see this thing through. It has already begun to change many lives, and I believe it will continue to do so. And now, at any time, hopefully very soon, we will be cradling our new baby in our arms.

Jesus never promised us a rose garden, but He did promise us "that in all things God works for the good of those who love him."

My family and I have found that the great "I Am" is still "I Am," for He consistently meets every need in our family and always in ways we never dreamed of or perhaps even hoped for.

We are willing—no, we are anxious—to be used in any way possible to save an unborn child as well as the mother-to-be. If we cannot close the doors to the abortion clinics, then let's take away their clients.

Finally, let me end by saying publicly that I am committed to God, to serve Him, and to love Him as He has loved me.

Thank you for inviting us here today.

Senator DENTON. Thank you, Mrs. Smith.

You made a remark about Planned Parenthood. Do you have any observation to make about their approach to counseling about sexual activity, or are you familiar with that—I presume you are—in your position?

Mrs. SMITH. I can say I am familiar with them, but in Frederick County, our Planned Parenthood right now is changing its position somewhat.

We were contacted by Planned Parenthood, telling us that they felt frustrated at the option of abortion, that that seemed to be the only option, and could they possibly be involved and help us, could they call on us, because they were told by Social Services and by Birthright, that we do offer homes for the girls.

So this seems to be an area where the abortion counseling has been easier, because there is no place to send the girls. When you deal with a minor, you have to deal with laws. You cannot just arbitrarily take a young girl into your home who is under 18.

So it has just presented a lot of problems and it has made abortion counseling easier. But it seems that they have lost a director, a paid director, and they are all volunteers in Frederick County. So they contacted us by letter, asking us if they could refer girls to us,

and if there was any way at all possible that they could be a part or help us, they would like to.

Senator DENTON. That is the precise major reason that I took exception to the way the Government was involved; because, at the point at which I arrived in the Senate, abortion counseling was the principal alternative being counseled. There were a number of other procedures which I thought were intrusive and abusive of the child, as well as of the rights of her parents. Now, I am no fool regarding the freedom of anyone to exercise his or her free will, but I am also no fool about the fact that it is the parents' responsibility, not some "professional counselor", paid for with my tax dollars, who has the principal responsibility of dealing with that child. I do not want that parent to be left out; I want that parent to be involved.

The Justice Department is deciding right now whether to appeal this issue to Supreme Court. If the lawyers feel differently than I do, they will have one screaming Senator on their hands, I will promise you that.

Mrs. SMITH. We are more involved with the parents. We make it a point to become involved with the parents of these girls. And we always try to keep the girl in her home situation if that is at all possible.

Senator DENTON. OK.

We have all acknowledged the gap between generations, which I am sure has existed since Adam and Eve's time. We still have a communications gap on this subject of sex between parent and child, and perhaps this is a time in American history in which that gap is more unfortunate than ever. Liberal columnists, as well as conservative columnists, black and white columnists, seem to have more understanding of this subject than many of my colleagues. For examples, William Raspberry, a black columnist and Morton Kondracke, a man on the left side of center, but one whom I admire as one who looks for the truth, both recognize that we have a really urgent national problem in the areas of premarital sexual activity and illegitimacy and what this means to our Nation. I say this recognizing that we must always keep in mind that in any individual case, we have to exercise compassion and understanding. Also, we must believe that many times, from an error, some kind of good can come. But nonetheless, as a general rule, as you said, Mrs. Smith, it would be nice if we could—and anthropologists and historians say this, not just moralists—if we could try to withhold our God-given desire to engage in sexual intercourse with one we might love or be attracted to before we are married to them. It would be a lot better for our country if we were to have pressures in that direction, rather than some of the influences in the opposite direction which we have now. When the parents here, and I, were teenagers we had more positive directions to follow.

What do you all see—and I will start with Mrs. Godley—Mrs. Godley, what do you see as changes in our society that tend to affect our teenagers in a more unfavorable way in the subject we are discussing than they did when you were a teenager?

Mrs. GODLEY. The one thing I see as a difference is that when I grew up as a teenager, abortion was not allowed. It was not out in broad daylight, like it is now. When a young girl got pregnant, you

did not hear about her getting an abortion or getting rid of the baby. When a girl got pregnant, most of the time either the kid was put up for adoption, or the girl was sent away until after she had the baby, and then she would come back home. When she came back home, she may not have the baby with her, but yet, the baby was put up for adoption, and it would get the care and stuff that it would need if the young girl was not able to take care of it.

But today, the abortion that is going on these days is open and direct, and it is ridiculous. I am one parent who does not believe in abortion. When I got pregnant with my kids, I was grown, sure, but I did not think about having an abortion or getting rid of them. I dealt with them, and I raised them to the best of my ability.

But then, I learned how to deal with my son's problems, too. With him having a problem right now and being in the school that he is in, he needed some type of help that I could not give him. And through Miss Flores, I was able to get him the help that he needed.

Getting back to the question, these days, the abortion that is going on is cruel; it is killing human beings who should be here.

And I want to say that if I can help a kid who is pregnant, needs help, and does not know how to deal with her parents and does not know how to go to them and tell them that she is pregnant, I want to help them and let them know that they can have somebody who is a friend and who will help them.

Thank you.

Senator DENTON. Thank you, Mrs. Godley.

Mr. Schaus, would you care to comment on the differences that you see between your teenage days and the problems confronting teenagers today that may make this more difficult for them?

Mr. SCHAUS. In a vein of humor, I do not know whether I can remember back that far.

In all seriousness, yes, I think there would be areas that our teenagers are faced with that are a lot more serious than those when you and I went to high school.

One is the strong influence of alcohol. I am very much opposed to lowering the drinking age. I think it should be raised back up where it was. I think that would be a help.

I think alcohol is probably involved quite frequently with teenage pregnancies.

I also think that in varying events, that the media, primarily the so-called idiot box, the TV, if you stop one evening and watch an evening of television, every commercial, every program has a sexual overtime. It is an environment where they are brought up with it the minute they start sitting in front of a television, and right on up through their adolescent years.

We have developed and created an environment that has put them in this position.

Senator DENTON. I happen to agree with all of that.

How about you, Mrs. Schaus?

Mrs. SCHAUS. I think I share the same feeling. I think that the literature that you see on the newstand, you do not pick up a magazine without a picture of a woman—as my husband said the other day, you cannot even go out and buy a tractor-trailer without a sexy woman advertising it. And that is just leading to it.

Senator DENTON. Somebody referred to it as "the over-sexing of America." It is actually a degredation or a perversion, a misrepresentation of sex at its best, I believe.

How about you, Mrs. Smith, what do you think?

Mrs. SMITH. I totally agree. I am amazed that when you turn on a cartoon, at the figures the cartoon characters have.

I think one of the other things involved, too—and I am really pleased to hear what they are involved in—is the sex education at school. I do know that Planned Parenthood is another group that goes into hospitals and gives talks, and the body is treated biologically. It is not treated mentally or spiritually, and it loses so much. And a young person cannot tell the difference. Someone has to tell them the truth.

Senator DENTON. Well, Government policy is involved directly in what you just referred to, Mrs. Smith. It is involved indirectly with what you all referred to, in that Government policy, through the Federal Communications Commission, required certain standards in the media, which were not that strict. I do not think it is fair to the prospects for happiness nor does it respond to the mandate of Congress to promote the general welfare for us to permit what is going on now. It is not just Congress, but it is Federal judges and other members of the judiciary who do not have the guts to stand up and say, "That is obscene, that is pornographic," when by anybody's standards, it is pornographic or obscene.

I am not going to lead a crusade to make our society prudish, but I think we are actually suffering from the opposite of that now. We are libertine-oriented, not liberty-oriented, and we are going to continue our problems. I agree with someone who said, "As long as America is good, she will be great; when she ceases to be good, she will cease to be great." I hope we are not going through that, but we are certainly seeing evidences of it.

What is the most difficult issue concerning family life values that you have had to address with your children? For an example, Dale mentioned self-esteem having been imported to him through the life styles program, and I am sure, through his Mom and Dad. But what are the most difficult issues that you all have experienced?

Let me start with Mrs. Smith on that.

Mrs. SMITH. I would say the most difficult issues that I have dealt with have been that most of the girls who come to us have stepparents. There is a divorce involved, and there is probably little or no self-esteem—feelings of rejection, feelings of guilt. What they have considered to be a problem in their parents' life is their fault. And it is just a repeated issue with the girls that we deal with.

The girls who come to us are not first timers—this is the third, fourth, fifth pregnancy. We want to reach these girls and change them in all ways to help them, as opposed to having them come back every year.

Senator DENTON. Well, you are right. And by the way, I am supposed to be a conservative Republican, but one of my most staunch colleagues in this field has been Eunice Kennedy Shriver. I also totally agree with another relative of hers, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, who writes what I consider to be superb columns. I have

never met with Kathleen on this subject, but I certainly have and will continue to meet with Mrs. Shriver. I do not want this to be a conservative/liberal issue; I do not want it to be a Democratic/Republican issue. It is an American survival issue. It is a civilization survival issue. And if we do not address it that way and objectively, we are going to deserve what we get.

It is not just girls. I happen to have attended a juvenile justice subcommittee hearing held by Senator Specter at which the most prominent witness was the young man up in New York, who had started the group called the Guardian Angels. Young men patrol the streets and try to keep the gangs down, try to watch the dope traffic, try to keep things generally under control, as volunteers.

I asked him what he thought the problem was today which was causing so much unrest and violence among youth, resulting in a crowding of our jails with teenagers. He said:

> It is very simple. We do not have any role models. The role models we are seeing in the movies, the role models we are seeing on television, the role models we are seeing in literature are not the kind of role models we need.

That has something to do with Government policy, and I do not mean to be a despot in saying that. I think even a libertarian would agree that to cry "fire" in a theater is wrong, and what is going on right now in this area of sexuality and youth is wrong. It sells, it makes money, but it is the oldest profession in the world, and it is a little cheap to sell it to kids so young that they cannot deal with it intellectually or experientially.

I have a question here for Heather and Dale and Aquilla.

There is a publication which you all might know about called Who's Who Among American High School Students, and that publication recently completed a survey of high school students. The survey asked over 2,000 of those students their opinions on a number of issues, and 43 percent of the teenagers who were polled indicated that there is a lot of peer pressure to have sex; there is a lot of pressure from our society to push us into sexual activity, including sexual intercourse before marriage.

Would you three agree with that?

Heather?

Miss SMITH. Yes, I would.

Senator DENTON. How about you, Dale?

Mr. DALE LUNN. Yes, sir.

Senator DENTON. Aquilla?

Miss GODLEY. Yes.

Senator DENTON. I certainly do. I did not see it when I was a kid growing up. I had enough problems trying to behave myself. I did not need any extra help from the movies or TV to be tempted to do things that would have been imprudent, inconsiderate of others, especially of a child that might be born.

I just do not think the situation is acknowledged and until the media—which I believe views itself as the liberal media—agree that this situation is serious and start writing with that slant instead of the opposite one, we are not going to have an improvement.

I can tell you the publishing industry, those who choose what books will be presented with the most push, have that slant, also.

It is very difficult to get a book about, say, child pornography, which is very well done and researched, published. I know a woman who has written an excellent book on the child pornography problem and she cannot get it published. Publishers say it is just not news. But Harold Robbins' books get published. Too many seem to write to justify their own lifestyle by imposing it on others. These are not people who are civilized who are doing that. It is the people who, respecting their point of view, would not contribute to the continuation of civilization. And I consider that a real crisis in our country.

I want to express my enthusiasm for what I have learned today about the programs of just two of the Adolescent Family Life demonstration projects, the one here in Washington, D.C. and the one down in Troy, Ala. I will be, of course, tracking that further, as well as looking into how families are participating in other programs such as that across the country.

It took some courage for you all to appear here today, and I want to acknowledge that, and I want to thank you for your valuable testimony.

Yes, sir?

Mr. SCHAUS. I would like to ask one question. At the very beginning and opening of the meeting, if I understood you correctly, when you were discussing birth control being given to teenagers without parental consent, did I understand you correctly to say that during these proceedings, if we had a comment along those lines, we could discuss that?

Senator DENTON. Yes, sir. It is not only without parental consent. It is not even with parental notification. At certain federally funded clinics, the intra-uterine device or the birth control pill are being given to 13-year-old girls, after watching movies, and reading literature provided by the clinics as part of the sex counseling program. The counselors demand absolute confidentiality, that the parents not be permitted to participate, to be involved. Representatives of Planned Parenthood sat here in this hearing room and told me they demand confidentiality, keeping parents out. Their movies say, "Don't believe as you were brought up to believe about this, that, or the other thing." I say that is gross, and if the Justice Department does not have enough guts to stand up and say so and appeal these rulings, as I say, they are going to have a man down here who is trying to put pressure on from the bottom and the top.

But go ahead and make any comments you want on it, sir.

Mr. SCHAUS. I am just going to underline what you just got through saying. Thank you. I agree with you.

Mrs. SMITH. Could I add one more thing to that?

Senator DENTON. Yes, ma'am. I believe the whole country agrees with that, with a very few exceptions, and I cannot understand why, in a pluralistic society, the minority of those who believe the opposite are prevailing in this.

Yes, Mrs. Smith, go ahead.

Mrs. SMITH. When I found out that, in my daughter's school, for example, that they had to call me to find out if she could take two aspirin, but to counsel her for an abortion, she could make an appointment through them, go to the school, be taken to the abortion clinic, and be brought home that evening, without my knowledge

or my consent, but legally, the problems were mine—financially, medically, any problem which incurred from that was my problem—not the school's, nor the counselor's. I could not fall back on them in any way, sign, shape or form.

Senator DENTON. I must say this. You cannot be a successful politician or a lasting one if you keep criticizing those who inform the public about what you do, and I by no means want to characterize the media as one big glob. But I must say that there is a media-imposed pair of beliefs out there about the parental notification rule. We mentioned one already, and that is its popularity.

The Gallup poll found, and they did not choose to publicize it, that the only age group against parental notification was unmarried males, 19 to 25. As I said, the parents in the age groups that would lend them to the probability of having teenage children were very much in favor of parental notification. So that is one lie that is being foisted upon the public, that it is unpopular.

The other is that if parental notification or parental consent were required, there would be a tremendous explosion in the rate of teen pregnancies and abortions.

The State of Utah had a parental consent law in the State, which is now causing them tremendous problems, because they are going to be denied Federal funds because they were as a State they have decided to exercise their constitutional right to put in a law on this, which has been struck down at the Federal level. They had a parental consent law regarding the issuance of contraceptives and abortion for over 1 year, and here are the results—which are the opposite of those assumed and thrust upon the public as inevitable. The girls are going to have sex, they are not going to talk to their parents, they a. e not going to use contraceptives, and we are going to have an explosion in venereal disease, and pregnancies, and abortions. That is a lie.

In a State which is relatively conservative and therefore more difficult to bring down in those statistical terms, after 1 year of their State law regarding parental consent, reports showed a decline in pregnancies among white teenagers 15 to 17 years old, from 45.1 per 1000 families in 1980 to 42.5 per 1,000 in 1981.

Now, the black population in that State is not high. But today, we have heard from Mrs. Godley, and we have heard from the Schaus' regarding Pike County, which is heavily black. I think there is more heroism among those black families concerning the difficulties that they have had over the past 100 years in this country than there is among white families on the average. But I believe the improvement among the black race is more notable now than among the whites. The white illegitimacy rate is escalating much more than the black at this time in our country.

But as for the Utah results, this was a 5-percent decrease in teen pregnancy, roughly. Given the time lag between the beginning of the reporting year and the enactment of the parental consent law in the spring of 1981, it is difficult to say that the new law was entirely responsible for this decline, but it is not difficult to say that it is a lie to predict or assume that there is going to be a big escalation in pregnancy. There are no data to indicate that.

Yet, upon those two lies—unpopularity and increased teen pregnancy— those judges and these lawyers up in the Justice Department, are not exempt from these political perceptions.

I do not see any of this around the country. I do not see, wherever I speak, be it California, Alabama, New York, I do not see the same kind of cynicism, the same kind of cowardice, the same kind of inability to address a subject and reduce it to its simplest terms and come out with that which is just and sensible with respect to the law. But I sure see it here in Washington, D.C. I lament it. I do not understand it. I cannot deal with it—unless the people who cover these hearings will publicize it—because you can see how many Senators are here. You can imagine how many would read the findings of this hearing alone, which will be that thick—zero. But get out there on that floor and try to beat the Lichter-Rothman surveys, the media-elite, the limousine liberals, who are saying these lies that I am telling you, I cannot do it. I can make a little headway. I can work day and night for a few months and get the adolescent family life law through. But then, I have the ACLU and everybody else coming back now to declare that law unconstitutional.

So I ask you to be active, and I ask you to pray for me, because I am swimming against the current.

Mrs. SCHAUS. I want to add, Senator, that in Pike County, under the adolescent family life program, that no girl receives any counseling, medical treatment, or advice without the signed consent form of her family and herself. Any student taking a life styles class in the seventh grade also has a signed consent form. We do not require that in the 10th grade. We have had no problems getting the forms signed; the parents do not give us any static, nor the girls.

Senator DENTON. OK. Well, all the law did was mandate parental involvement. These are arrangements you all have made for yourselves, and I believe that is where it ought to be made, down at the local level, with the parents involved with their children, with their teachers, with their doctors, with their social workers, and so on the problems cannot be solved by just one outfit receiving Federal money, which is throwing kerosene on the fire and saying, "Give us more. We do not have enough contraceptives to hand out. That is the problem."

That is not the problem at all.

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.

Our next witnesses are here representing The Great American Family Program, and that is in capital letters. I would ask the panel to step forward.

The description of The Great American Family Program will be provided by the president of The American Family Society, Mr. Wayne Scott.

STATEMENT OF K. WAYNE SCOTT, PRESIDENT, THE AMERICAN FAMILY SOCIETY, WASHINGTON, D.C.; THE LARRY McCORD FAMILY, DEATSVILLE, ALA.; AND THE TIMOTHY VANN FAMILY, ST. PAUL, MINN.

Mr. SCOTT. Senator Denton, we are very honored to be here today, and I am going to depart a little bit from my prepared remarks, because I have been deeply touched by what you are doing.

Our family has talked many times of your experiences in Vietnam, and I want you to know that I have a great, strong conviction that your life was preserved for a very important reason, and we are so grateful for your leadership. We appreciate it.

Senator DENTON. Well, thank you. I am your average guy, and now, with the Lord's help, I have to prove that yet. But go ahead, Mr. Scott.

Mr. SCOTT. Senator, we are very excited, because I think what we will talk about now represents a potential strategy for getting the groundswell of excitement to deal with the kinds of issues that you have been talking about. We have had a great experience with this, and in the interest of brevity, perhaps I can refer to this a little bit so I can say it succinctly, perhaps adding a few comments along the way.

It is a great privilege to be here for the National Family Week-related hearings. It has been our experience, Senator, that National Family Week has been little more than a proclamation since 1970 when it was introduced, although in recent years, there has been a growth. And this great American family awards program is one we would like to talk to you about.

Last year, nearly 200 families were honored across the country in community ceremonies in connection with National Family Week. Mrs. Reagan was honorary chairman of this. Nine of these 200 were invited to the White House, where Mrs. Reagan bestowed honors upon them not only for their lives, but because they exemplified the millions of families across the country who are living good, solid lives.

Before I introduce two of these families to you today, I would like to give you a little bit of information about the program.

First of all, The American Family Society is an independent nonprofit organization. Our purpose is to help parents improve the quality of their family life in their homes and in their communities. You have not seen us up here on Capitol Hill, Senator, because we are not a lobbying kind of organization, related to a political or a religious or a special-interest activity, although I will say again that personally, I can see, as we have gone across the country meeting with people, very, very often, the influence of the Lord is mentioned frequently by people who care about their families, and that spirit is very much evident here today. So, by saying we are not officially affiliated, we nevertheless have those values.

Our purpose is to help inspire and equip parents to, as we would say here, excel in their vital leadership role in society. I think all too often, they have not recognized that they have a great leadership role in society, and in doing this, we are working with quite a wide range of family serving organizations. I am going to mention some that are quite beyond what is typically thought of as an orga-

nization that is concerned about quality of family life in the country, and we are very excited about their involvement.

We enthusiastically disagree with those who are trying to promote the notion that traditional family values are on their way out, and that individuals, not families, will be the basic building blocks of a future America.

We reject the specious argument that one might as well get with it and swallow the mega-trend fodder that is intended for gullible readers and talk show listeners.

And you talked about people justifying their lifestyles and trying to impose them on others. I am fearful that much of that is going on today. But perceptive Americans recognize that there are countless families like the Vanns and the McCords who are here today, great American families, who are quietly living their lives, adding tremendous strength to their communities and to the Nation.

Our awards program, Senator, is designed to intrude in their lives just a little bit, to put them up on a pedestal, if you will, get some media attention, so that others seeing their good works will say to themselves, "Hey, we can do that, too."

That is one very important element of this program, role models, as you said earlier. You will probably hear today of the fantastic surge in community spirit that has come to the hometowns of the Vanns and the McCords. This has happened in other communities, Senator, as a result of this program.

Why?

Because we feel that people have come to realize that you cannot keep talking about what is wrong with family life.

The awards program is based upon a very sound management principle, a leadership principle, if you will—and I have worked in the field of management training—that one has to understand his or her strengths and then build upon those, and this is what we have tried to apply to the concept of families. And that concept applies in the home, in the community, and in the Nation, recognizing and building upon our strengths.

Volunteers in each of the programs, the participating organizations in our program, have done a superb job, and I want to mention these groups.

The Armed Services YMCA, the Family Services Association of America, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the National Association of Life Underwriters, the National Extension Homemakers' Council, Inc., the National Urban League, and the U.S. Jaycees.

You see, we had a diverse group of many organizations that reached families of all income and socioeconomic levels.

The participation of elected officials and the media coverage in these community programs has been tremendously exciting. In the years ahead, Senator, we expect that Great American Family Award ceremonies held annually during National Family Week will eventually bring an uplifting influence to the communities in virtually every community in the country. And that is our goal, to make that happen.

The First Lady's personal leadership is obviously the key reason for the successful launching of this new tradition in America. For years, we have talked about the importance of families, but until

June 22, 1983—and you were there, as I recall, Senator—families had never been invited to the White House to be honored in behalf of all families whose lives bring strength to the Nation. Mrs. Reagan's memorable and moving ceremony was the first in the history of America, as far as we know. She has taken steps to insure that The Great American Family Awards can be a tradition carried on by future First Ladies for generations to come.

Announcement of this program was withheld until after the 1982 elections, to keep it free from any hint of politics. The President proudly announced Mrs. Reagan's role as honorary chairman of the awards program when he signed the 1982 National Family Week Proclamation on November 12 last year, well after the election.

Many have asked how the program is being funded, especially when they learned that some 65 people, including a 12-member, 4-generation family from Hawaii and a family of five from Alaska, were flown to Washington for 3 days. Not one penny has come from the Government. There are three primary sources. First of all, you would expect their friends, who believed in the program. But I want to get into some of those who have become involved, because I think this represents an exciting direction to tap strength to enforce and encourage, I should say, the strengthening of family traditions, the traditional values.

There is a source that is often unrecognized, and I am speaking of companies. Companies provide jobs for breadwinners, and they serve families with their various products and services. We have sought to involve them in this program. And, contrary to the stereotype image of a greedy preoccupation with profit often portrayed in the media, we have met executives, Senator, who have generously assisted us, expressing a desire, a very sincere desire, to see traditional values reinstated in America. Many of them consider their own employees as kind of an extended family. There is a very strong family spirit in these companies.

Because many of these companies did not receive any public recognition for the tremendous work they have done, I would like to briefly mention a few, so you can get a feel for what they have done.

U.S. Air and United Airlines brought the families to Washington for a fraction of the fare that they would normally charge.

Holiday Inns hosted these families in a very elegant manner.

The BEAM Organization donated the beautiful porcelin plaques presented at the White House.

Proctor & Gamble and Reader's Digest provided substantial funds.

Now, not one of them got public notice for that. I would like to mention, too, in following upon your comment, that Proctor & Gamble actually put up a budget of $1.2 million to do a 2-hour television documentary on one of these nine families—it happened to be the McCords, from your State—and a TV network executive, consistently on each of the major networks, turned this program down, even with the marketing muscle of that great company. They did not want it; they did not think it would appeal.

Senator DENTON. I hope that is their only reason, Mr. Scott.

Mr. SCOTT. One other corporation should be mentioned. The officials of WTBS, the cable TV network that now goes into some 27 million homes, will soon be featuring these Great American Families as part of their regular programing, the nice "People" show they have.

Next week, they are sending a filming crew out to Omaha, where they will be filming a community ceremony. They also plan to cover the White House ceremony next year in some detail. We are very thrilled with that kind of strength.

All of this is intended to help Americans honor these families. The media now, and particularly this one organization, is getting it out to a lot of people—they want to see this program succeed.

And then, quickly, I will mention some resources that we provide, because this is being done in conjunction with other organizations, and I want to mention it because they are reaching families.

A family checkup to help people see where their strengths are and how they can build upon them and set priorities for improvement; a Great American Family Life Preserver, which is essentially a calendar type of planning device to help families plan quality time together to avoid disruptions in their lives. This was developed under the direction of Bob Breedan at National Geographic, and is being used by many companies as an employee benefit program.

Austin-Kiplinger has helped develop a newsletter for families that we are allowing corporations to reproduce so they can reach many, many people.

The bottom line of what I am saying is that corporations are getting involved; the media has responded positively to this program, and we are very excited about its long-term potential of encouraging parents to be the leaders that they really are in society.

Now, let's talk about these families that are here today.

There were three criteria to be used in selecting them. First was the service that they rendered in their communities; second, the teamwork within the family that enabled them to have the strength to do some good outside the family, and finally, the nurturing of the individual growth on the part of each member of the family.

The McCords and the Vanns beautifully exemplify the living of these fundamental values. Let me just briefly talk about each one of them, and then we will turn the time over to them.

The McCord family is a second-generation farming family. In our written materiai, we said they are from Eclectic, Ala., but they let us know they are from Slappout. They have spent the last quarter century involved in State, community, and church affairs. They touched the lives of those around them, earning the respect of all who know them. They have won many awards from State and local organizations, and they were nominated as the Great American Family by the Elmore County Extension Homemakers' Council. Every member of this family works on the farm, from daughters Lilah and Lisa, sons Jimmy and Joel, and Ramona works beside her husband, operating tractors and other farm machinery, but also manages to keep the household organized. She supports the children in their school activities, and even went so far as to sew new shirts and a flag for the school marching band, which she

helped organize. In her spare time, Mrs. McCord serves as president of the Elmore County Farm Bureau Women's Committee and is an active lobbyist on farm issues at the State legislature. She is perhaps best known for her cooking, however, and has won several statewide competitions.

In addition to their farming activities, they regularly volunteer in community projects, active in the 4-H and Future Farmers of America. They are active in the volunteer fire department, the rescue squad, and we could go on and on.

This is truly a Great American Family, Senator.

Mrs. Timothy Vann is the manager of a rock group, former coach of a championship girls' softball team, a teacher of tapdancing for teenagers, an expert in inner city community services. She is the mother of 10 children, and she is a widow. Yet she succeeded in overcoming many hardships where most people would have given up in despair. Mrs. Vann was left with eight young children when her husband died, and then took two others in who needed a home. Never letting the lack of money stand in her way, or the fact that she had lived in a turbulent decade of segregation in Missouri and could not get a job despite her college degree, Mrs. Vann somehow succeeded in keeping her family fed, clothed, and educated, and today at 65, she is the director of the Model Cities Health Clinic in St. Paul and has earned a masters degree in public administration.

Timothy says her faith has always kept her praying and working hard to improve her life and the lives of those around her. She has always provided a support system When she saw the need for an afterschool activity for teenagers in their housing unit, she organized the girls 'and boys 'softball teams, taught poise and dancing, as well as art and culture, and even started this rock band, mentioned earlier, which was booked throughout the Twin Cities and included members of her own family—a wonderful woman.

She has sent all of her children to college. They are successful members of the community. Her daughters have achieved in the professions of nursing, airline attendant, model, the arts, painting, choreography. Her sons are equally accomplished. One of them is a hospital administrator, another an electrician, a third a musician. They were nominated the St. Paul Family of the Year, and of course, they became the Great American Family with the Urban League there and the Family Service Association.

Today, Mrs. Vann is here with Travelle and Arlene.

Senator, I would like to turn the time over to them, now.

Senator DENTON. Well, I have met both of these families, because they were celebrated in many places, including a room here in the Capitol, at a reception. This is the second family from Minnesota. And I am especially proud to welcome the McCords, whom I have met before, because they are from my home State and from the town that has a name that gets a lot of attention sometimes.

Where did you say you thought they were from before you learned where they were from, Mr. Scott?

Mr. SCOTT. I think we had their rural address as Eclectic, Ala., and they told us—well, you saw them, perhaps, on the Today Show with Willard Scott, when they told the nationwide audience about

Slappout and how it got its name. I do not know whether you want to take the time to let them tell you that story but it is a great one.

Senator DENTON. Well, if you do not want to take the time to tell it now, tell me later, because I always wondered where Slappout got its name.

Please, go ahead, Ramona and Larry, and make your statement—and welcome.

Mr. MCCORD. We are Larry and Ramona McCord, and we are from Slappout, Ala.

We want to express our thanks for this honor of being invited back to Washington to represent the Great American Families, and to our American Family Society president, Wayne Scott, and to our Alabama Senator, Jeremiah Denton.

Our gratitude for our recognition goes to First Lady Nancy Reagan, honorary chairman of our first Great American awards program, to the National Extension Homemakers' Council, our sponsoring organization, and to Alabama Extension Homemakers' Council, our State sponsor.

Our nominee, Mrs. Marvelle Edwards, is Alabama Extension Homemakers' Council district 2 director and Elmore County Extension Homemakers' Council President.

We think this is the greatest honor a family could ever receive in this, our great United States of America.

I have been a farmer all my life. I was 11 years old when my daddy died. I had to help my brother on the farm. We had a pair of mules that we worked the farm with. I went to school a half day and farmed a half day, because my mother had had a nervous breakdown after my daddy died. My brother and I knew we had to work hard to save our farm.

When Ramona and I married, she was not a farm girl, but we were in love and learned to work together as a team. Outside of our home, our involvement with our community, county, and State are: I am chief of the Hopewell-Slappout Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad; I am a director of the Elmore County Farm Bureau; I helped organize the first Elmore County Agricultural Fair; I served as its president for 3 years. All proceeds from these fair funds go to 4-H, Future Farmers of America, and Future Homemakers of America agricultural activities.

Mona is the backup of our fire and rescue squad. She sees that families have a way to help their needs, whether it be 2 a.m. or 3 p.m. She is chairman of the Elmore County Farm Bureau Women's Committee; serves on the State Farm Bureau Women's Committee; she is vice president of the Elmore County Cowbells; she is the director of the Elmore County Fair Board, and is head of several other committees. We are a member of the Ebenezer Bible Church.

As a husband and a father, it means a great deal to me to have the full support of my family in whatever I do. If more families of this great country of ours would stick together, we would have a stronger and more productive country.

And now, I would like to introduce my partner in everything I do: my wife, Ramona.

Mrs. MCCORD. Thank you.

Larry and I have been married 23 years. Larry is a lifetime farmer, and I learned to love this good Earth, as he did, after we married. Whatever he did, I did. I was his shadow.

After our first child was born, it did not make any difference in our lives, except we had another person to share our love with. Whatever we did, we did together. That is the way it was with all four of our children. I would take my babies with me wherever we went, whether it be work or play.

We have had some hard times in the past 23 years, but they have been the best years, because we shared our love. You see, nothing can tear a family apart if they really love one another. They must trust, care, and share.

Our oldest daughter, Lilah, is 21. She is a full-time farmer. She has her own beef herd. When she was 18, she applied for a Farmers Home Administration loan and bought 56 beef cows. She is the first female member of the Hopewell-Slappout Fire and Rescue Squad. In high school, she was vice president of her senior class and class favorite. She also was chosen by the faculty as Miss Citizenship. She was a member of her junior and senior debate club. She is a member of the Elmore County Cattlemen's Association. She showed her prize-winning dairy cattle in the 4-H dairy shows for 14 years on the local and State levels. She still shows in open shows.

Lisa is our second daughter. She is 20. She has always been very active in sports. She was a majorette in high school for 4 years, with superior ratings. She was a member of the track team and scored the highest points in 1978. Like Lilah, Lisa showed her 4-H dairy cows for 13 years. She is married now and is a good homemaker.

Jimmy is our oldest son. He is 15. He has always been such a loving child. We found out when he was in the third grade that he had dyslexia, but through the help of our county school system, he is in a special class for dyslexic children. Jimmy is gifted with his hands. He can make beautiful ceramics. He has a green thumb when it comes to plants. He, too, has a special feeling for animals, and he shows 4-H dairy cattle and has for 10 years. This year, he had the State of Alabama grand champion Guernsey. He is a member of the Hopewell High School Future Farmers of America Chapter.

Joel is our youngest. He is 9 years old and keeps us busy in many school activities. He makes A's and B's in school and loves sports—I will have to comment, he loves school, too. He has played baseball for 2 years. The first year, he received a sportsmanship award. He has played football for the past 2 years. He has shown 4-H dairy cattle for the past 3 years. Joel helps with the chores on the farm, like everyone else. His main job is to help feed the baby calves.

The motto of our family is: To care is to share, and to share is to love. We pray that our country will always be as great a place for good family life, and that this motto will be the motto of more families in years to come. It is very important that families stick together through hard times as well as good times.

Thank you.

Senator DENTON. Well, thank you, Mrs. McCord. Your emotion is a testimony to the depth of your love and joy, and you need not feel ashamed or self-conscious about it.

Before I get to the Vanns, who are about as versatile as you all are—especially Timothy, with all the things she has been into—I just cannot omit that recent article, one in U.S. News & World Report and another one which I forgot to bring with me, that analyzed families in much different terms from the way we have been looking at it this morning. But although there are some very difficult issues before us today—such as some involving "Baby Doe" cases where we must decide whether or not to do this or that in certain health cases with babies—there are nonetheless some rather clearly-defined issues.

There was the point of view expressed in U.S. News & World Report, which said everything is fine, we are coming toward an era of enlightenment. We are going to have a new kind of happiness which we have not had before. We are going to have the normal couple marrying at a relatively young age, being divorced several times by the time they are 35, and this is going to be a glorious epoch because the kids are going to have such an extended family. I recall they talked about how many relatives and step-relatives they would have and what a big orgy of love all of this would be.

This is a direct quote:

> There is Dad and his wife, Mom and her second husband, Junior's two half-brothers from his father's first marriage, his six step-sisters from his mother's spouses previous unions, 100-year-old Great-Grandpa, all eight of Junior's current grandparents, assorted aunts and uncles-in-law, and step-cousins.

I wish they had been kidding, but they were not. Now, there is that approach to the problem, and then there is the approach these families here today have been talking about. That is clear. And every historian throughout history, regardless of his religion, will tell you that there just is no way a nation is going to survive unless the traditional family unit in that nation is relatively healthy.

There is historian after historian whom I could quote who will say when a nation starts to relax its sexual mores relative to trying to impress the young to wait until they get married, it is relaxing standards and, it loses its greatness. So it is not just a religious question of the sayings of the Lord Jesus Christ or the God of Abraham, in which all the Christians, Jews, and Islam believe, but there is historical proof that we cannot get along without the institution of the family. Unfortunately it seems we are trying to disprove that in this country.

And after what I have heard and read about you—talk about names—"Timothy," I thought was a man, but when I met you, I realized you were a lady. And Timothy was a great saint. I do not know how you got the name, Mrs. Vann, but we sure are looking forward to hearing from you.

Mrs. VANN. Well, Senator Denton, before I go into my little introduction, I want to say that when I received a call from your office a couple of days ago, I did not understand what the lady was saying, and when she said it was from Senator Denton's office, I said, "I know no Senator Denton."

Her response was, "You soon will."

And I want to say that I am so glad, that I have been so inspired, sitting here and listening to the other panelists and hearing your position on some real touchy issues. And I would hope that more politicians would stand by their convictions and know that our country really depends on what you are fighting for and what these people stand for, and I mean that from my heart.

Senator DENTON. You are very kind. Thank you.

Mrs. VANN. Senator Denton and members of your committee, I am Timothy Vann, from St. Paul, Minn. I am a single parent, the mother of 10 children and the grandparent of 16.

And I think maybe I should get the record straight, because all of the 10 are my children. I think as so many children passed through my home over a period of time, that they may have gotten some of them mixed. We have kept as many as four or five other children. They may have gotten that mixed. So all of my 10 children are my blood family.

With me, as Mr. Scott said, are Arlene, one of my twin daughters, and Travelle Vann, my youngest son. We are here at the invitation of Mr. K. Wayne Scott, president of the American Family Society, and at your pleasure.

My testimony will include a brief description of our family life, how we tackled adverse conditions, the current status of our family relationships, and our recommendations for increasing and improving family growth and development in our Nation.

I want to interrupt myself again, because I want to acknowledge the McCord family and say that I feel so honored to sit on this panel with them. When we returned from Washington to our home after the great American family event, our family took a poll, and unanimously, the McCord family was our favorite. So I am so pleased to see them again and to sit here with them.

When the nine families were honored by First Lady Nancy Reagan and the American Family Society in June 1983 as being recipients of the first Great American Family Award, it was emphasized that none of us were winners, nor were we the best. We were only representing the millions of diversified families throughout our Nation, who are nurturing strong families and making valuable contributions to our communities.

Our family, truthfully, was amazed at the great honor bestowed upon us. We thought we were just a regular family and did not realize that if you were a single-parent family and you had a large number of people that you were unique.

Well, we became very excited about this honor when we returned home and found out that our community and the State of Minnesota reacted to this award. They became excited. They related to us, because we were no better than anyone else, and we found out that we had given a great deal of courage and inspiration to many, many people.

Any of the successes and achievements made by my family can be attributed to my inheritance—my family, my parents, my grandparents, and my friends. We are not from Alabama, but they are from Arkansas, so we inherited the good Southern tradition of discipline, work, respect for parents and elderly, and all people.

Senator DENTON. Mrs. Vann, could I intervene a remark here?

Mrs. VANN. Yes, sir.

Senator DENTON. I just learned something that is remarkable to me. I met with a company which was building a large new plant east of Montgomery, Ala., and I told them about having visited a relatively new pair of companies owned by a man who has become my friend. I am impressed by the quality of labor in his two plants. One factory is involved in making glass for these great skyscrapers, and it is a very complex process to make the glass resistant to weather and so on, and yet transparent. The other factory is ran near Selma, Ala., and it produces a gold wire that is used in semiconductors. It is too technical for me to understand, but both are very difficult to produce and require the highest quality labor.

He had one roomful of women, about as large as this room, doing things that—I said, "What are you trying to do, show off, and have a bunch of women in here working and show that you are dealing with women in this plant so principally?"

He said, "No; the men just cannot do it. This is such fine work. It involves getting that thread down to something that is less than a millimeter." They start out with these huge gold bars, that you can hardly lift, and they work it down to that fine wire through all these processes, which only women are patient and delicate enough to be able to do.

I also was impressed with the tremendous percentage of black people, which corresponded to the ratio down there, and they all looked as if they had Ph. D's.

I said, "Where did you find all this labor?"

He said, "Right here, around Selma."

And I just filed that away in the back of my mind. I just thought it took Yankees to come down South, because all of us, black and white, are kind of lazy and sit around under the magnolia trees and all that sort of thing. And then, only yesterday, I met these two gentlemen who are putting up a plant that involves the manufacture of composite aircraft parts. They said they had just conducted a study of the work ethic as manifested by the people of an area. The study found that that area of the country, believe it or not, was right at the very top, that the people wanted to work, they worked hard, and they worked well.

I do not know why I happened to interject that remark at that particular part of your testimony, but I did want to boast about a part of the country that I thought was traditionally, by virtue of climate, principally, "laid back" as far as we are concerned. It is not, and I am very proud of my State, and of course, I am very proud of Americans like you.

Please go ahead.

Mrs. VANN. The teachings of love and honor for God, respect for my parents, respect and consideration of all people, honesty, industriousness, self-reliance and self-worth, were passed to me and then, on to my children. I was also disciplined. My parents encouraged me to learn everything, for they said that, "It may come in handy someday." I was discouraged from begging and borrowing and stealing, and thrift was a means of survival.

I was an only child, and my parents said that they wanted me trained so well that if they died, I would not be at the mercies of society. So my children have been trained in the same manner.

Our support system also came from religious leaders and educators and friends. And, as you have testified and others, I did not let any social workers or anybody tell me how I am supposed to change my way of training my children so that they could be decent citizens. I thought that would be abdicating my role and my responsibility.

The combination of my great inheritance and the added support systems given to me made a valuable survival kit for my family and myself. We worshiped, worked, played and prayed together. We also studied together. Our differences seemed to result in a closer bond between us.

I never lost my respectful position as their mother, and they never lost their respectful position as my children and expected contributors to the good of the family and our community.

All of us were encouraged to pursue our fields of interest with the understanding that you must try to do the best you can. If it took 3 hours for one person to reach a certain goal or destination and took one of the children or myself 10 hours to reach that same goal, they were encouraged to keep trying until they reached that goal—the main thing was they reached the goal like anyone else.

Our children's fields included, as Mr. Scott said, administration in medicine, education, the arts, drama, studio arts, modelling, flight attendant, and so forth.

Now, my grandchildren are benefiting from what was passed down from my parents, and they are succeeding scholastically in language arts, computer science, theater arts, gymnastics, and dance.

I have been asked about the status of our family at this stage in life, as they are adults, and I am certainly an emancipated adult, since I have no one at home to take care of. And I am proud to say that we are friends. I do not try to be young with them. I am their mother, who is their friend, and I will always support them. We are members of a mutual admiration society, and I have been very blessed for them to tell me, "Mother, we are so proud of how you have reared us."

Not all has been smooth, and my family has had the same difficulties that anyone else has had, but we hung in there together. Added to the usual problems of ordinary people, we have, as you can see, met with racial, education, housing, military and job discrimination. We had serious sicknesses—I had cancer—we lost our loved ones, there were school problems and peer problems. My children were harassed because they had chores and curfews. I was harassed because I taught my children to say, "Yes, ma'am," "No, ma'am," "No, sir," "Please," and "Thank you." So my peers told me that I was making my children "Uncle Toms" and that we were acting not modernly.

The pains and insults of discrimination were counteracted with constant reminders that they were made in the image of God, and they were endowed with beauty and potential greatness if they tried the best they could.

Sickness and death were recognized as part of our lives. We dealt directly with the school problems, and we worked through the peer pressures.

All families are not as fortunate as many of us are. Circumstances have filled their lives with strife, frustration, hopelessness and helplessness. The inability of heads of households to get jobs and salaries so that they can adequately feed their families, provide decent, safe and sanitary housing, and provide medical care for them results in that family head being frustrated—he is at loss or she is at loss. As is said, if we kill the head. the body dies. And I think we need to find some way to see that that head stays alive and well, that the heads of households, whether they be single heads of household, male or female, married couples like the wonderful McCord family, I think our Nation and society should invest in them and encourage them to continue nurturing families, which will be the pride of our Nation.

Now, examples of occasions which cause hurt and pain and hopelessness and so forth are the two emergency housing sites that I visited. I am on a social action committee for my church, who sent me out to do a site inspection. At one of these locations, I found children and parents in dormitories. They did not have food, they did not have clothing, and they had no money to buy it. The food shelf was bare. Now, you can imagine how embarrassed I would be or any of us would be, to find ourselves in emergency housing dormitories, with no privacy, and some donated beds and so on. This is discouraging to heads of households. There were whites and blacks, married couples, single people, and the little children there, in those kinds of conditions.

About 2 days ago, a head of household came in for medicine. We had been treating her free, but we cannot afford to give away expensive medicine, and we were trying to find a way that we could fund her medicine. She left there, crying, while we were trying to get the funds. She was embarrassed, she was hurt. She needed the medicine. And how can she invest in her family if she is worried about having money to just take care of her own health care, let alone the food, clothing, housing and so forth, of the people she loves?

I would like to make a recommendation, if I could be so presumptuous, of how these barriers can be removed—and I think it has already been touched on, but I will offer it anyway.

I think that equal job opportunities for all people who are able to work should be provided. I think affordable, decent, safe, and sanitary housing and a decent living environment for all citizens should be provided. I would argue for equal opportunity for quality education. And I think as much as we can, we should hammer away at all discrimination at whatever level and by everyone.

The chain is no stronger than its weakest link, and neither can our Nation be the strong, great nation that it is, if the weakest person—and I will just reword that. The chain is no stronger than its weakest link. Neither can our Nation be stronger or greater than the weakest family or any member of our society.

America can remain a great nation by eliminating barriers to opportunities and by using all available resources to invest in the increased growth and development of our Nation of families.

And I ended up with, "We are family," and that is how I feel. We are members of the human family, and we are all members of the family of God.

I thank you very much.

Senator DENTON. Mrs. Vann, that was beautiful. This whole hearing has been such a relief from the previous ones in which we have dealt almost morbidly with the troubles of families and the results of the breakdown of families. No family is without its sadnesses.

I was raised by a single parent, my mother. I obeyed my religion and the Fourth Commandment, "Honor thy Father and they Mother," and I loved my father until he died when I was in prison—they did not tell me about it until I returned, but I was sorry. I did not ever blame him for anything. But my mother raised me, and I thank her for that and respect her and honor her for that, in the same way that your children evidently respect and honor you for the way you have done it.

Just to watch their expressions as you were talking was an inspiration to me.

It is remarkable, the flexibility and variety of American society. Whereas the McCords are your favorites, they have kind of stuck around the farm, although Ramona was not a farm girl originally. It is sure worth noting the versatility in your family and how you have managed to support them in their respective interests—a nurse practitioner, a psychiatric nurse and superviser of the well baby clinic, has three children, aged 9 to 14. Her husband, John, is a Ph.D candidate for clinical psychologist. That is the eldest, Ora May, or May Mitchell now.

June Marie Hagan, an airline attendant with Republic Airlines and a professional model.

I must tell you that the two you have brought with you are certainly handsome and beautiful respectively, male to female.

And that airline attendant is the mother of two, age 4 and 6.

Michael Elliott, a self-employed businessman, member of the Minnesota National Guard, and he is a musician, plays the guitar and sings.

Arlene, the next, a professional dancer and choreographer, accomplished drummer, assistant director of North Commons Community Center, administrative secretary, and formally trained artist. Arlene is here today.

Aileen Williams is the twin of Arlene. Aileen is a professional cosmetologist and a musician and dancer. She is married and has two girls, ages 13 and 12. She has been formally trained as an artist.

Theodora is a nutrition assistant with the Ramsey County Extension Service and a trained salesperson.

Timothy E. is an electrician and served for 4 years in the military.

Starr is a student at River Falls University of Wisconsin.

Travelle, who is here today, is an administrator at Saint Mary's Hospital, Minneapolis, a guide at the Minnesota Historical Society, and a dance instructor at the University of Minnesota, where he is also a student.

Tony served 4 years in the military as a communication specialist. He is a car salesman and also a musician.

With my own seven, I have seen some versatility, but I am not quite sure I have seen that much. I want to congratulate you on

the successes of your children in their respective endeavors. Thanks to Mr. Scott as well for the work that he is involved in, which I believe is aimed at reestablishing the prestige, the role model of the good family, in which there is the greatest happiness to be had, the greatest development of citizenship, world citizenship, if you will, as well as American citizenship. There is no replacement for the family today in that development.

So, I hope we can become less sophisticated than that U.S. News & World Report article would have us. It is not corny to say the things we have said today; it just makes a lot of sense.

You do not look 65, Mrs. Vann.

Mrs. VANN. I am 66 now.

Senator DENTON. Well, my first-grade teacher still looks as young as she did when she taught me, and she has never been married and has none of her own children, but she dealt with thousands. She is a nun, and she has mothered many children in many ways. So helping kids helps keep you young and happy.

We have not heard from Arlene and Travelle, and I would just like to ask them these questions and then ask the older people some questions in writing, to which I hope they will respond.

Arlene, what have you noticed or absorbed from your mother in your relationship with her that you would like to be able to emulate most in your own adult life?

Miss VANN. That you have to respect, besides yourself, other people. God is first; God is always first. Whatever values you have, you do not "play" with them. You have to work to achieve.

"Keep your nose to the grindstone." [Laughter.]

Senator DENTON. Sounds like almost a family motto.

Miss VANN. Yes, it is.

That you share; that your life is really not worth as much as you think if you do not share with other people, and you get back so much more.

And the biggest thing is no matter what profession you have in life or that you choose in life, that you adhere to it, that you put all your energies into it and you say, "I am proud that I can do this," no matter how big or how small. And if I have children, I will pass that on to them.

Thank you.

Senator DENTON. Thank you for sharing that with us, Arlene.

Travelle, how did your mother insure that you had an opportunity for male role models and leadership, since you did not have a dad around? How did that get taken care of in your life, male role models and leadership?

Mr. VANN. There were three other brothers to instill that.

As far as role models, male or female, I do not think that really matters. Her role model, besides what Arlene said, was, I think, intelligence, being very level-headed, and making sure that whatever you want, that you go for it; that you are tenacious, but you do not really step on anyone's toes to get there because you never know who you are going to meet on the way back down. And just lots of love and a lot of self-respect. I think that is the most important thing is intelligence and self-respect.

Was that good?

Mrs. VANN. And love of God.

Mr. VANN. Yes. He is in there, too—or she.

Senator DENTON. Thank you.

I will ask the McCords a question. In your statement, you say, "If more families would stick together, we would have a stronger and more productive country."

If you have any ideas on how we, in Government, can help get that message across, I would like to hear them.

Mrs. MCCORD. I really do not know how to answer that, as far as the Government is concerned. I just wish that more families could have been here today and heard the testimony of all these families, and they would realize the importance of a family sticking together. To love and to share and be able to have children and to watch over them and guide them in the right way—there is nothing in this world any better.

Mr. MCCORD. You were talking earlier about sex education taught in the schools. In our home, we were like Mrs. Vann, and we taught it. My girls were not embarrassed to ask me things they wanted to know, if they did not want to ask their mother. And I think that is what a family should do, instead of the kids having to go and ask the neighbors' kids or learn the hard way. I think they should do it at home, and the kids will have enough confidence in the parents to ask them questions they want to know and not have to go somewhere else to learn.

Senator DENTON. You have the ideal situation, Mr. McCord, and I am sure that is the best way to do it. Some families do not enjoy that rapport, that communication, to the same degree and to the full and constant degree, but certainly, there should be parental involvement if there has to be some kind of sex discussion with them. I think you would agree with me that the parents ought to be involved and not excluded. That is an issue in Government law right now which we are about to, the way the odds look, lose on. But you know, we can overcome odds. Mrs. Vann and her family did. You all have, and sometimes I have.

Thank you all very much for being here today. Write anything to us that you wish that you think we can work on in the work we have been doing. Mr. Scott probably knows a little about that, and I hope Mrs. Vann learns that there is a Senator Denton. I am not any better or worse than the other 99 Senators. But I do think this is an important area that is kind of overlooked, and I would appreciate whatever you can do, because you are active and influential people, to help in this.

Yes, ma'am?

Mrs. MCCORD. I would just like to make one comment. When our oldest daughter finished high school, she came to us and she said, "Mama, Daddy, all the boys and girls in my class are leaving home. They are going to college, or they are moving out into apartments. Can I stay at home?"

So I think that parents should encourage the children to stay with them just as long as they can, in one respect, that they have the security when they are at home.

Senator DENTON. Not only security, but—you know, we thought we would look forward to the day when we did not have the seven fighting all over the living room, and throwing things at each other at the table, which they rarely did—they were mostly good kids—

but, boy, when they all went to college, and I had to come up here, it was really tough on both my wife and me. There is a tremendous gap that exists now. So I know what you are talking about, and I agree with you.

So again, thank you all very much, and I thank everybody for their interest.

The hearing stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 1:39 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

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